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Serving Agawam-Feeding Hills-Southwick

March 20, 1979

## Sarat Ford Celebrates 50th Anniversary



John Sarat, Jr., Town Manager Peter Caputo, and John Sarat, mark the 50th anniversary of Sarat Ford, Agawam. photo by Jack Devine

## 'Developers using Rte. 57 as a tool'...ACT

In a prepared statement to the Agawam Advertiser/News, the Agawam Citizens Together's (ACT) steering committee have accused developers John Beltrandi and Frank Solitario of using the completion of Route 57 as a "tool and stepping stone for private interest groups that is a below the belt punch to the people of Agawam."

The statement comes in the wake of the recent controversy over the highways proposed completion. Three regional planning agencies have voted to recommend to state officials that before the funds are allocated for the roads completion, an environmental impact study must be conducted on the proposed bypass. Agawam town officials along with State Rep. Edward Connelly have been strongly critical of the regional agency's negative ballots on the Route 57 extension.

According to Harry Minet, the steering committee's public relations officer, the completion of Rte 57 is fully supported by the ACT organization. "Rte. 57 appeared to be assured and the long time congestion, vehicular accidents and general hardships of the present conditions would be eliminated in the Feeding Hills area of our town," the statement said.

Minet said the steering committee believes Beltrandi and Solitario have used the 57 issue to enhance their respective proposals. Beltrandi along with Leon Charkoudian of Newton are offering the town a 55 million dollar business-industrial park in Feeding Hills. Solitario has asked the town for permission to install condominium units on South Street. ACT has been strongly opposed to these developments.

The steering committee said that Beltrandi's presentation to the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission on March 12 combined with the publicity of the proposal in recent weeks could have directly effected the commissions decision to recommend stoppage of the funds. The State Department of Public Works had requested to allocate 1.2 million dollars for preliminary engineering and design for the bypass prior to the commissions ballot.

"During the past two months the proposals for a race track, the Solitario condominium complex and the Beltrandi complex all hit Agawam like a bombshell, and today the Rte 57 extension becomes the center of controversy instead of a reality," the statement further pointed out.

Minet said the people of Agawam deserve the completion of Rte 57. He pointed to events in recent weeks that have seriously jeopardized the highway project and that Agawam residents are being treated unfairly because of the impact the proposed developments have had on various commissions.

"I honestly believe that the real animosity that grew against 57 came in the last six weeks with the developers announcing their plans," Minet related.

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## Local Officials Assail Rte. 57 Opponents

State Representative Edward Connelly, Town Manager Peter Caputo and a number of councilors have vehemently criticized the three planning agencies responsible for imperiling the 14.5 relocation project of Route 57.

Last week the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Joint Transportation Committee and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority voted against the state Department of Public Works request for 1.2 million in preliminary engineering and designing funds which would begin the completion of the Rte. 57 bypass.

Anger, frustration and disappointment ran very high among the officials contacted by the Advertiser/News. After reviewing the various statements given by the Manager and the town's elected representatives, one has to believe Agawam will not take this possible holdup without voicing objection or taking further action. The three agencies are calling for a full environmental impact study after the state DPW decided to waive any further surveys. Connelly has stated a report such as the one the regional agencies are asking could cost an additional 4 million dollars and take up to two years.

"I've been acting as a liaison officer for five years now between the town's Rte. 57 committee and the state," Connelly said. "I've been meeting once a month with the Mass. DPW and the Federal Housing Authority trying to right a very terrible wrong." Connelly further stated that the Rte. 57 situation has been "the number one priority" of the LPVRC in the last four years.

Caputo called upon all planners who are taking political positions on the Rte. 57 issue to immediately begin assuming a proper stance geared towards Agawam's needs and not ones based on the wishes of special interest groups.

Caputo is particularly angered with the committee makeup of the PVT. He feels it is very unfair that Amherst, a community with a fleet of PVT buses, has four votes compared to Agawam's one.

"Well, the PVT is an issue I think I think I'm going to have to deal with. Amherst with their buses gets 4 votes and we only

have one. We want equal representation on this board. Agawam's being treated like second class citizens," Caputo said.

Rte. 57 committee members Kenneth Barnes, John Bartnick and Frederick Nardi also criticized the recent turn of events against the highway's bypass. Barnes, a precinct three councilor whose constituency lives in the area of Rte. 57 declared "unsafe", was the most verbal of the three.

"It appears to be a political game of politicians and bureaucrats who simply want 57 to be killed for good," Barnes remarked. They are singularly trying to expand Mass Transit in Agawam." Barnes also scored former PVT director Terry Tornek for his part in the matter.

"Mr. Tornek prior to that job was a Joint Transportation Committee member. He's always been attempting to stop Rte. 57 for the benefit of his buses. Barnes further pointed to the LPVRC and the JCT's involvement in attempting to stop a road between Chicopee and Holyoke that considerably raised the cost of construction. "This same type of thing could happen to Rte. 57 if its held up," the councilor added.

Nardi believes the LPVRC has "no say in the matter. The dye has been cast," Nardi commented. "There is not going to be an impact study. The regional planning commission is taking a dim and selfish view of the needs of Agawam."

Nardi said part of the opposition comes from individuals in Springfield trying to get downtown rebuilt. "They feel the 57 bypass would be a detriment to their downtown area," Nardi related.

Like Barnes, Bartnick receives all of his votes from the precinct 3 sector. Bartnick said he is most concerned with the involvement of Springfield officials in this matter, especially after Mayor Dimauro signed a resolution sponsored by Councilor Robert Markel asking for a full impact study that Rte. 57 would have on the South End Bridge.

"Springfield caught on because of their downtown revitalization," Bartnick said. When asked is the recent Beltrandi-Charkoudian proposal effected Springfield's position on 57, Bartnick responded, "I do get that feeling. They could be afraid of losing business because of that proposal. If

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## Sprucing Up for Spring



John Alaimo, age 4, of Agawam gets ready for spring by getting his hair cut by Ed Straszro of Straszro's Barber Shop, Main Street, Agawam. photo by Jack Devine

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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MARCH 21-27, 1979

## Wednesday

6:00 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - PART II (PG-1:45)  
8:00 AAU Boxing: PHILADELPHIA AT ATLANTA (Tape Delay)  
9:30 REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (PG-1:39)  
11:30 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - PART II (PG-1:45)

## Thursday

5:30 Special: AN EVENING IN CONCERT WITH GLEN CAMPBELL  
6:30 HERE COME THE TIGERS (PG-1:30)  
8:00 OUR WINNING SEASON (PG-1:32)  
9:30 Collegiate Gymnastics: INDIANA STATE AT PENN STATE (Tape Delay)  
10:30 CATASTROPHE (PG-1:32)  
12:00 THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE (R-1:40)

## Friday

5:30 A PIECE OF THE ACTION (PG-2:15)  
8:00 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS  
9:00 Special: UP CLOSE  
10:00 AAU Boxing: PHILADELPHIA AT ATLANTA (Tape Delay)  
11:30 THE FURY (R-1:57)  
1:30 MADAME ROSA (R-1:45)

2:00 Special: THE GREAT CONSUMER RIP-OFF  
3:00 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - PART II (PG-1:45)  
5:00 EMBRYO (PG-1:44)  
7:00 Collegiate Gymnastics: INDIANA STATE AT PENN STATE (Tape Delay)  
8:00 GOIN' COCONUTS (PG-1:33)  
9:30 Special: CLARENCE DARROW  
11:00 Standing Room Only: DOUBLE TALK: The Second Annual Adult Ventriloquism and Comedy Show  
12:30 THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE (R-1:40)

## Sunday

3:30 OLLY OLLY OXEN FREE (G-1:28)  
5:00 SALTY (G-1:32)  
6:30 CATASTROPHE (PG-1:32)  
8:00 THE WILD GEESE (R-2:15)  
10:30 Special: AN EVENING IN CONCERT WITH GLEN CAMPBELL  
11:30 Special: UP CLOSE  
12:30 CATASTROPHE (R-1:32)

## Monday

6:00 HARPER VALLEY P.T.A. (PG-1:42)  
8:00 ACES HIGH (PG-1:54)  
10:00 REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (PG-1:39)  
12:00 THE FURY (R-1:57)

## Tuesday

6:30 Special: CLARENCE DARROW  
8:00 Standing Room Only: HOCUS POCUS: IT'S MAGIC!  
9:30 OUR WINNING SEASON (PG-1:32)  
11:00 MADAME ROSA (R-1:45)

# Agawam Repertory Theatre Production at Agawam Jr. High

Susan Hayden, director of *A Flea in Her Ear* in rehearsal by Agawam Repertory Theater, is putting actors through a far more rigorous discipline than the community theater group has ever before experienced.

Not only has the cast been rehearsing five nights a week instead of the usual three for the production scheduled for March 30, 31 and April 1 and 2 at the Agawam Junior High School, but the director has exposed the actors to an entirely new method of working.

Hayden says that instead of beginning with the director's concept of the comedy's 14 characters, she has initiated a new method of working first on text which is used at Shakespeare and Co. in Lenox, where she is assistant to the company's founder and artistic director Tina Packard.

"I wanted to see how this would work out with non-professional actors as well as to experiment with a method of my own," Hayden said.

A recent graduate of Smith College with a major in directing, Hayden began her professional directing career with "The Learned Ladies," 1978 winner of the American College Theater Festival, which was presented at the John F. Kennedy Center for

the Performing Arts.

At Shakespeare and Co. since July, 1978, she was assistant director of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and director and compiler of *Edith Wharton: The Lenox Years*.

Added to this is her film experience as assistant producer of "Elizabeth C. Stanton" starring Irene Worth and Collin Wilcox, which will be released next fall by PBS.

"I was interested in doing *A Flea in Her Ear* because I have never directed anything from this turn-of-the-century period," Hayden says, "and also because it is very complicated, with lots of action and quick changes of mood."

She continued, "This is a difficult play because there are so many people with conflicting objectives, but this ART cast is a good group to work with, and I was really happy that everyone was so willing to try a new method and to learn. I am sure the results will pay off with great performances."

Patron's tickets for \$5 will be available to Agawam residents by calling Mrs. Diana Willard at 786-9128. She will also have regular tickets available for \$4 for all who are interested.



Amy Bruch as Philia and Bob Naylor in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" presented by the Stageless Players of WNEC.

# Stageless Players Present "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

The Stageless Players of Western New England College are proud to announce their spring musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" will be performed on Thursday thru Saturday, March 29, 30, 31 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday April 1 at 2:00 p.m. in Sleith Hall 100, WNEC, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, Mass. 01119. For reservations call 737-9828. Tickets are \$2.00.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" is a hilarious musical comedy that has something for everyone. The show has lovers, liars, and clowns, stunning surprises, cunning disguises, courtesans and eunuchs, funerals and chases, baritones and basses, mistakes, fakes, rhymes, mimes, tumblers, grumblers, fumbler and bumbler.

The drama club's president, Donna Dore of West Springfield is directing, assisted by Jonathan Baine, the club's treasurer from New York. Maureen Hart of Agawam, WNEC's Director of Student Activities is assisting in the musical direction along with Dot Dexter of Wilbraham who is the accompanist. Also in the band is Paula Kisser, Mike Drumheller, and Bill Dalo.

Opening the show as Prologus is Mr. Glen Johnson, the advisor to the Stageless Players and the Director of Churchill Library at WNEC, from Longmeadow. Playing Erronius, is Mr. Al Clarke, of Springfield, Assistant Professor of Sociology at WNEC.

Mike Grimaldi, also of Agawam, is participating as part of the stage crew.



Susan Hayden

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## Citizens for Life

On Friday, March 23, at 7 p.m., there will be a regional meeting of the Massachusetts Citizens for Life held in Southwick at the Powder Mill School on Feeding Hills Road. All chapters will be represented from the Springfield area from Brimfield to the Westfield Southwick area.

A film will be shown at 7 p.m., and a meeting will follow and a discussion and a question-and-answer period. Also, plans are being made for the Mother's Day Dinner to be held in May.

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# Is There a Solution?

by Gail Lortio

Schools all over the country are presently faced with the serious problem of marijuana use in the schools and vandalism of school property. Very few schools have been able to find a workable, effective solution, mainly because these problems did not happen overnight. They steadily grew year after year, and as each year went by and little was done to curb these problems, they grew more complex and harder to reach. Many different schools have tried as many different methods to solve marijuana use and vandalism within the schools. Some schools such as West Springfield High have tried policing the school with a police officer or some other person of authority.

This method is effective only as long as this person is in the right place at the right time. The students quickly learn when and where these individuals will be and just continue to do "their thing" in a different area of the school. This solution may possibly curb marijuana use and vandalism for a period of time, but as soon as the person in authority is removed, the problems return.

Other schools have tried to prosecute students through the courts for marijuana use and vandalizing school property. Many problems may arise for the schools using this method. As is presently happening in Ludlow, rate parents may decide to bring suit against the school. In most instances, if the case against the student does manage to go to trial, the courts rarely prosecute to the full extent of the law. Very possibly, the student is highly reprimanded and in school the next day, somewhat of a hero to his peers.

For these reasons and others, schools, including Agawam, have found it safer and easier to ignore or offer token solutions to marijuana use and vandalism in the schools. Lack of backing from parents seems to contribute strongly to this approach in our schools, and yet, when I interviewed parents, including a random street sampling, they strongly felt that the solution begins in the home. Strict parent supervision and backing the schools in their efforts to confront the problems were the most common solutions offered by parents. Yet, at a recent parent discussion meeting offered at the high school on a monthly basis, only twenty-five parents attended.

The general consensus of all those interviewed - parents, teachers, administrators, and committee members - was that the time to seek solutions was long overdue and something that should be done before the problems become even more complex and harder to reach. Mr. David Theodorowicz, principal, stated, "I am most interested in finding a solution to marijuana use and vandalism at a definite step in the right direction. These attempts at a solution to marijuana use and vandalism are only first steps in the overall solution to these problems. Much more work needs to be done by all of us. Education of parents is definitely needed, but the students themselves, starting in elementary grades, need to be educated on the dangers of drug abuse. The problems will remain in our schools until all of us are willing to accept our share of the responsibility and work together to control these serious problems which endanger our children's health and education."

March 6, was in response to her request of Ryan to state his future plans for the track of the ACT group, disclosed to the Advertiser/News that she received a letter from Attorney Edward T. Ryan of Davenport, Millard Cannon and Ryan, attorneys-at-law. The firm had been representing a group trying to bring a race track into Agawam. The group has withdrawn their proposal due to a highly vocal protest from town residents.

In a related issue, Mrs. Audrey Dempsey, a member of the ACT group, disclosed the public hearing on the race track. Because Town Hall advised the hearing, the Council must hold a public forum despite the fact the track's sponsors have indicated they will not present track at the hearing. (At press time the Council hearing had not been conducted.) According to Mrs. Dempsey, the letter dated March 19, (At press time the Council hearing had not been conducted.)

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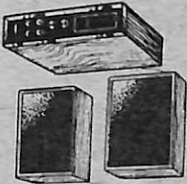
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## Winning Number Drawn

Jane McCarthy of Agawam and Dave McWilliams, owner of Agawam T.V., draw winning number in Agawam T.V.'s stereo giveaway. The winning number is 006015. The winner has until March 27, 1979 to present his matching ticket and claim his prize. If the prize is unclaimed, it will be given away in the near future in a similar drawing.





# Social

## Suzanne Forsman Engaged to Wed



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Forsman of 612 North West Street, Feeding Hills, announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Sheryl, to Peter John Ronchi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Ronchi of 102 Maple Street, Agawam.

Miss Forsman, a graduate of Agawam High School, is a

member of the graduating class at Bay Path Junior College, Longmeadow.

Mr. Ronchi, also, a graduate of Agawam High, attended American International College and graduated from Westfield State College. He is employed at the Springfield District Court.

A fall wedding is planned.

## Bonnie King to Wed Philip McCarthy Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles King of 36 Birnie Avenue, Springfield, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Bonnie, to Philip J. McCarthy Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. McCarthy of 35 Sunnyslope Ave., Agawam. Mr. McCarthy is a

graduate of Agawam High School and U.T.S. of Springfield. He is employed by Plastic Packaging Corporation of West Springfield, where Miss King also works.

A candlelight wedding is planned for June.

## Agawam Women's Club to Meet

The next meeting of the Agawam Women's Club will be held on Monday, March 26, at the Capt. Leonard House, Agawam, beginning at 8 p.m.

The subject entitled "Whatever Happened to Ballroom Dancing?" will feature a dance exhibition of the major ballroom dances performed by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barrett of 14 North

Alhambra Circle, Agawam.

Mr. Barrett has been associated with the Fred Astaire Studios in Ohio and Kentucky for the past few years. He now gives private and group lessons in ballroom and disco dancing.

Mrs. Frank Myers Jr. is in charge of hospitality. Members and guests are always welcome.

## Agawam Jr. Women to Hold Banquet

The final meeting and banquet of the Agawam Junior Women's Club will be held April 24th at Old Storowton Tavern on the village green in West Springfield.

Election and installation of

new officers will take place at the meeting. Mrs. Diana Willard, current president, will evaluate the accomplishments of the 1978-79 season and then pass on the gavel in a traditional candlelight ceremony.

## Rev. and Mrs. Woodbury Return from Abroad

The Rev. Paul Woodbury, Jr., chaplain at Western Massachusetts Hospital and pastor of Agawam United Methodist Church, Feeding Hills, recently returned from a trip to Israel and Rome, Italy.

He and his wife, Florence, were members of a group of many religious denominations in the tour, which was sponsored by Educational Opportunities, Inc.

While in Rome they visited the Vatican. Their visit to Israel encompassed many miles and many Biblical sites,

including Nazareth, Galilee, Jacob's Well, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dead Sea. "As a pilgrim, I found my trip really opened up the Bible," Mr. Woodbury said. "One experiences thousands of years of Biblical history and gains an appreciation for the Scriptures as never before."

He plans to present a slide show on his Holy Land visit to inpatients at Western Massachusetts Hospital and his parishioners.

## Area Students Named to Dean's List

### at AIC

Fifty-eight continuing education students from Massachusetts and Connecticut achieved Dean's List standing at American International College in Springfield for the past semester.

From Agawam were Richard A. Clark Jr., 238 Maple Street; Wesley F. Cola, 368 Springfield Street; Christopher P. Reilly, 128½ Walnut Street; and Sheila A. Swikalus, 18 School Street.

From Feeding Hills were Douglas D. Duga, 480 North Westfield Street and Mrs. Linda M. Hart, 861 South West Street.

semester of the 1978-79 academic year. The Dean's List serves to recognize academic achievement at the college.

### at HCC

The Dean's list for the fall semester at Holyoke Community College has been announced by Dr. Philip S. Campbell, dean.

Achieving Dean's List standing from Agawam were Mary Ball, Donna Fleury, Carol Kajka, Cherly Kelly, Patricia Longo, Diane Montagna, Philomena Napoli, Karen Patino, Ronald Richter, Cynthia Safford, and Laurie Taupier.

From Feeding Hills were Ron Dutton, Steven Mitus, and Michael Tease.

From Southwick were Richard Fountain, Linda Hadley, and Linda Lampiasi.

### at U. of Hartford

Shelley M. Fischer of 55 Emerson Road, Agawam, was one of 146 fulltime students at the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hartford, to earn a place on the Dean's List for the first



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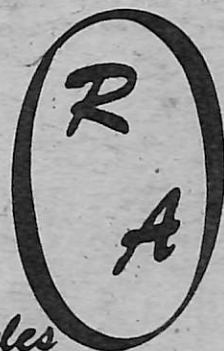
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Julie Dubuque, Henry Waniewski, and Sandra Smith of the Silver Carriage Inn meet to plan a record hop to be held at the Inn on April 27, 1979. The hop will be held for the benefit of the Heart Fund. photo by Jack Devine

## Music Dept.

### Lists Activities

For those interested in following the activities of the Music Department of the Agawam school system, the following is a list of upcoming events.

MARCH 22-24: All-State Music Conference at Lowell; Todd Rovelli from AHS will be performing with All-State Chorus.

MARCH 25: 2 p.m. Color Guard Contest at AHS

MARCH 26: Solo/ensemble for 6th grade band at Middle School auditorium 2-4 p.m.

MARCH 27: Solo/ensemble for 7th grade band at Middle School 2-4 p.m.

APRIL 2-6: National Music in our Schools Week - elementary band programs each afternoon; parents invited. Mon.-Clark; Tues.-Granger; Wed.-Robinson; Thurs.-Danahy; Fri.-Phelps.

APRIL 4: Pre-jamboree rehearsal for strings at Middle School 2:50 to 4 p.m.

APRIL 7-8: Senior High Band Paper Drive

APRIL 7: Color Guard contest at Springfield

APRIL 8: Color Guard Contest at Springfield

APRIL 10: Solo/ensemble for junior high students-auditorium from 2 to 4 p.m.

APRIL 11: Solo/ensemble for senior high students at AHS auditorium-2 to 4 p.m.

APRIL 21: Barbershop Chorus program, Bellamy School, Chicopee

APRIL 28: String Jamboree in Wilbraham

APRIL 29: Band Parents tag sale at high school

MAY 2: Band Time Concert in senior high gym, grades 5-12 bands, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 1: East Windsor Jr. High Band at AJHS

MAY 3: AJHS Band at East Windsor Jr. High

MAY 12: Western District Jr. High Music Festival

MAY 23: Chorus Festival for grades 6-12, AHS auditorium 7:30 p.m.

MAY 28: Memorial Day Parade in Agawam

JUNE 5-6: Elementary school programs for 3rd graders at strings.

Tentative plans are in the process for the Jazz Rock Chorus to go to New York on May 5 and the AHS Band to go to Wildwood, New Jersey on May 12-14.



Students from Danahy School rehearse a song from 'The Sound of Music' which they recently performed under the direction of Miss Laurel LeDuc, a teacher at the school. The students are, from left to right: Christine Sherman, Gina Dialessi, Nora Lloyd, Glen Tetreault, Colleen Lappie, Debbie DiSisto, Bobby Peterson, Douglas Lush, Kim Donnelly, and Tammy Stone.

## Library Pre-School Story Hour

The Agawam Public Library will hold its annual Spring Pre-School Story Hour on Wednesday, April 4 at 10 a.m. The story hour will run at this time for six weeks, up to May 9, in the Community Room of the library at 750 Cooper Street.

Pre-registration is required at the library, and all children must be at least 3½ years old. Coffee will be served for mothers of the pre-schoolers.



## WHAT??

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## Southwick

### Adult Ed

### Courses Listed

James Vincent, Director, has announced that a second ten week semester of Adult Education Courses will be offered at Southwick High School.

The cost to Southwick residents is \$10.00 and non-residents \$15.00. Classes are scheduled to begin Monday, April 2. Registration will take place March 26, 27, and 28 in the high school office from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fifteen or more students must register for a particular course to be held. Second semester offerings include: Woodworking, Aerobic Exercises for Men and Women, Creative Stitchery, Portrait Painting, Architectural Drawing, Sewing, Typing, Photography II, Individualistic Approach for Reading Improvement, Golf, Pulled Thread Embroidery, yarn Crafts Workshop, and Creative Stitchery.

Information forms are available in the Third National Bank, Woronoco Bank, and Jones Market.

For more information, call 569-6379 or 569-6171.

## A.F.S. to Sponsor Dinner

The Agawam Chapter of the American Field Service will sponsor a Macaroni and Meatball Dinner at the VFW hall on South Street on Saturday, April 7. Continuous servings will run from 5 to 8 p.m. with ticket price \$3 for adults and \$1.75 for children under 10 and senior citizens.

At the end of the evening, the winner of the drawing for a trip for two to Montreal will be announced. This is a weekend for two at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, transportation and tour included. Chances are being sold for a dollar, and all proceeds from both the dinner and the raffle

will go to the AFS Scholarship Fund.

The American Field Service is a high-school based student exchange program whereby foreign students live with local families while studying here for the year. It is cultural as well as educational.

Agawam currently has three such students, one each from Sweden, Costa Rica, and Switzerland. These students are willing to speak to local groups who may be interested.

For dinner reservations, please contact 786-4188. For raffle tickets, please call 786-9619.

## AHS Color Guard Competes

The Agawam High Competing Color Guard took 8th place recently in their first competition at Chicopee.

Although expecting to compete in the Class C novice class, the group found itself in the Class B portion with 11 other guards. They still succeeded in outscoring several of these groups and ended up only tenths of a point from sixth position.

Many favorable comments were expressed to the members about their possibilities. With a little more competition experience, our local group should give many of the others a "run for

their money."

The Agawam High Competing color Guard may be seen in action at the high school gym on Sunday, March 25, where some 10 other competing guards will take part beginning at 2 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$1 each and include a performance by the full Agawam High Color Guard and Band while the judges are tabulating scores.

Refreshments will be available in the cafeteria, and a good crowd is expected to attend this first color guard show to be held in Agawam.

## Crafts Festival Slated

The annual Fall Festival of Crafts sponsored by the Agawam Catholic Women's Club will be held Saturday, October 13, at St. John's Parish Center, 823 Main Street, Agawam. Chairpersons are Mrs. Claude Ouellette and Mrs. Stephen Jacapraro. For further information, call 789-0977.

## Phelps PTO

The Benjamin Phelps School PTO will hold a meeting on March 21 at 7:30 p.m. The program will deal with the Chapter 766 Core Evaluation process covering referral, evaluation procedure, implementation, programs, and support services. A question-and-answer period will follow.

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF AGAWAM  
139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, Mass.

## Monte Carlo Night

Saturday, March 24, 1979

Smorg at 10 p.m. Games open 6:30 to 11 p.m.

Happy Hour: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5.00

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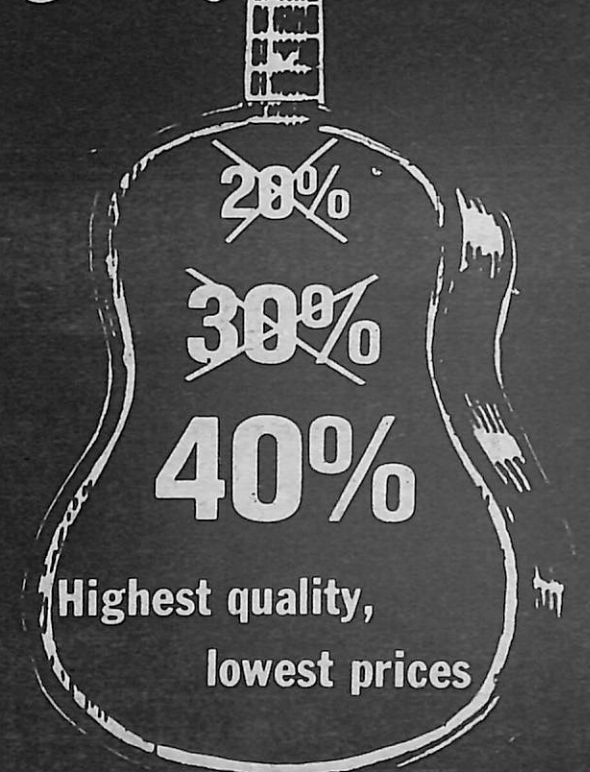
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Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## III National Promotes Feeding Hills Man

One of five promotions recently announced by Third National Bank Chairman Wilson Brunel went to Thomas Dodge of Feeding Hills, who was appointed Leasing Officer.

Mr. Dodge joined the Third National Bank in July, 1978, as a leasing representative. He was previously employed at Chemical Bank in New York City as an account executive in

the Domestic Leasing Division.

A graduate of Long Island University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, he is currently attending the University of Hartford pursuing an M.B.A. in Finance.

He and his wife Janice live in Feeding Hills.

## Sanchez Prepares Testimony for Presidential Commission

Napoleon N. Sanchez of Feeding Hills recently attended a planning session to prepare testimony for the forthcoming regional hearing by the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies. The planning session, held in Hartford, was under the auspices of the Northeast conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Sanchez is an assistant professor at Westfield State College. He was part of a group of 60 foreign language educators who together identified issues which should be brought before the President's Commission at its hearing May 4 in Boston. The group drafted written statements on these issues and suggested representatives who might present the position statements to the commission.

According to Paul Cincinnati of the Northeast Conference, who presided at the Hartford meeting, the five main areas considered by the delegates were international education at all levels in the schools, foreign language education in the U.S., institutional needs in language and area studies, the contribution of international

exchange, and business and international trade.

President Carter appointed the Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies last September in response to the section of the Helsinki Accords which calls for increased opportunities for language and international studies among the signatory nations. The Boston hearing will be the commission's last before preparing its report and recommendations, expected to be presented to the President this fall.

The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, which played host at the planning session, is a national organization in the field of foreign-language education, sponsored by academic institutions at both secondary and college levels, and now in its 26th year.

The Northeast Conference itself, held annually in April, is attended by foreign-language teachers from all over the country. Two Massachusetts educators currently serve as members of its board of directors: Micheline Dufau of UMass, Amherst, and Ariadne Shilaeff of Wheaton College, Norton.



June M. Knapp

## June M. Knapp Promoted at Park West Bank

Jane M. Knapp has been promoted to Branch Manager of the Feeding Hills Office of Park West Bank and Trust, according to William A. Franks Jr., president.

Miss Knapp joined Westbank in 1974 as a part-time employee and, upon graduation from college in 1977, she became a management trainee.

A native of Westfield, she graduated with honors from

the MacDuffie School for Girls in Springfield and received her B.S. in Business with a major concentration in management from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where she was on the Dean's List for four semesters.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Knapp and resides with her parents in Westfield.

## Adult Ed to Exhibit Student Projects

The annual exhibit of the work of the faculty and students of the Agawam Adult Evening School will be held on Friday, March 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 31, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School, Main street. An invitation to all those interested is extended by Richard Barry, director of adult education.

The following classes, with their teachers, will have display areas: Quilting-Suzanne Ashe; Needlepoint and Vestamayd Rugs-Rachel Atkinson; Upholstery-Joseph Bianchi; Sewing and Tailoring-Lydia Elia and Marama Breuniger; Metal

Working-John Burns; Oil Painting-Marjorie Carter; Furniture Refinishing-Thomas Collins; Woodworking-Thomas Collins and Charles Heyl; Decorated Ware-Irene Draghetti; Pottery-Laurel Malerba; Calligraphy-James Sadler; Creative Crafts-Geraldine Schilling-Nordal; Gourmet Cooking-Sharon Warner; Wood carving-Kenneth White and Auguste Laine; Chair Caning-Carl Woodruff; and Cake Decorating-Kathleen Rose.

During the exhibit, the instructors will be available to answer questions and discuss their techniques.

## Adult Nature Course at Laughing Brook

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden is offering a three-session nature course for adults with an initial meeting on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

The Spring Amphibian Workshop is taught by staff naturalist Tom Tynning. The three evening sessions will combine indoor slide presentations and outside walks in local swamps and marshes. Understanding the behaviors and learning to recognize local frogs and salamanders are objectives.

The Spring Amphibian Workshop is open to the public and a fee is charged. High school age is the minimum. For pre-registration information, call Laughing Brook at 566-3571.

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## Southwick Dogs Available for Adoption

The Southwick Dog Officer has announced the following dogs as available for adoption:

Female, lap-size, black/tan terrier mix, friendly.

Male, below-knee sized tri-color, neutered beagle, friendly.

Female, below-knee sized tri-color, spayed beagle, friendly.

Male, above-knee sized black Husky, friendly.

If anyone is interested in taking one of these dogs, call the dog officer at 569-3725.

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Your Host and Hostess at

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would like to thank all our customers who helped to make our Grand Opening a success. Thank you for participating and join us again for breakfast and lunch.

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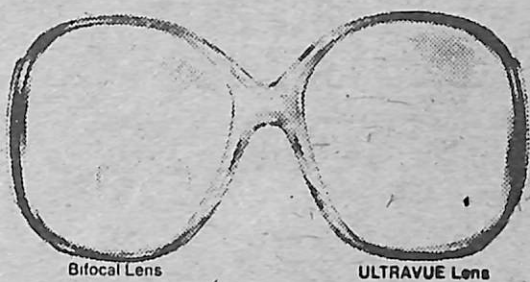
## SKATE FOR CANCER



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## School Lunch Menus

### Agawam Menu

**Wednesday, March 21:** Oven roasted turkey in gravy, whipped potatoes, cranberry sauce, buttered peas & carrots, whole wheat bread & butter, jello w/ whipped topping, milk.

**Thursday, March 22:** 1/2 tuna salad sandwich/1/2 peanut butter & jelly sandwich, oven baked potato rounds, buttered niblet corn, ice cream sandwich, milk.

**Friday, March 23:** Chilled lemonade, meat ball grinder w/ tomato sauce topping, creamy cole slaw, sweet potato cake w/ vanilla icing, milk.

**Monday, March 26:** Pizza w/ cheese & hamburger topping, tossed garden salad w/ shredded carrots and French dressing, 1/2 peanut butter sandwich for seconds, chilled fruit cup in syrup, milk.

**Tuesday, March 27:** Potted beef in gravy on whipped potatoes, buttered peas & carrots, rye bread & butter, chocolate cake w/ butter icing, milk.

**Wednesday, March 28:** Baked fish bites, tartar sauce or ketchup, buttered niblet corn, oven-baked potato rounds, ice cream, milk.

**Thursday, March 29:** Chilled juice, baked hamburger & macaroni in tomato sauce, creamy cole slaw, Italian bread & butter, cherry jello w/ whip topping, milk.

**Friday, March 30:** Steamed frankfurt in roll, mustard & relish, oven baked beans, oven baked potato rounds, school baked oatmeal cookies, milk.

### Southwick Menu

**Wednesday, March 21:** Barbequed beef on sesame seed roll, sweet pickle chips, French fries w/ catsup, buttered green beans, strawberry jello w/ topping, milk.

**Thursday, March 22:** Sliced turkey on grinder roll w/ lettuce & tomato, buttered mixed vegetables, peach turnover, milk.

**Friday, March 23:** Cheese pizza, buttered corn, tossed green salad w/ dressing, chilled applesauce, milk.

**Monday, March 26:** Ravioli w/ meat sauce, shredded cheese, buttered corn, bread & butter, chilled peaches, milk.

**Tuesday, March 27:** Hamburger on bun, potato rounds, buttered peas, oatmeal cookies, milk.

**Wednesday, March 28:** Oven baked chicken, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered green beans, bread & butter, vanilla pudding w/ topping, milk.

**Thursday, March 29:** American chop suey, shredded cheese, tossed green salad w/ dressing, French bread & butter, chilled fruit cup, milk.

**Friday, March 30:** Tuna fish salad roll w/ shredded lettuce, potato chips, buttered corn, strawberry jello w/ fruit and topping, milk.

## Agawam Senior Center Wright Street

3/26: Quiche lorraine, beet salad, cheese cake  
3/27: Greek hamburger patties, shredded potatoes, tomatoes, jello  
3/28: Turkey fricassee, rice, peas, apple crisp  
3/29: Beef cassarole, lettuce, peaches  
3/30: Battercrisp fish, potato salad, beans, cookies

Next hypertension clinic: March 20 for letters L-Z  
Next foot clinic with Dr. Haynes: April 4  
Please call in if you need help with your taxes. This will be your last chance.

A reminder of the trip to the Goodspeed Opera House, where we will see the musical *Babes in Arms* by Rodgers and Hart. This is a nationally recognized theater. Lunch will be at the Gelston House Restaurant. Price: \$17.50 Date: Wednesday, April 11.

continued from page 1

Springfield can't get business, that's their problem. It's a cop-out on their part since they originally voted in favor of 57. Something is fishy."

Councilor Paul Fieldstadt said the town has to be careful that 57 is not used by any developer for their own personal gain. "Rte. 57 is needed in Agawam and it shouldn't be stopped. I just don't want to see developers coming and over developing the land around there. Then we'll have some problems."

Richard Theroux, the Council's president was present at the balloting of the LPVRPC along with Connelly March 12. Theroux told the Advertiser/News the regional planning commission has "a lot of nerve

saying that correct planning for the valley is what's best for Agawam." Theroux said the Beltrandi Business Park could be responsible for the negative reaction on Springfield's part as well as the LPVRPC membership.

"If Beltrandi can build a mall and village that will give Agawam a much needed tax base then that's Springfield's problem. What might be good for the Pioneer Valley may not be good for Agawam. They're pushing public transportation and the inner city rehabilitation of downtown Springfield. Right now, Agawam needs Rte 57 and we're being confronted with pretty paper phrases that are not realistic."

## Home Care Services Directory Available

"Where can I get help when I am ill, unable to do household chores, and am alone?"

These and many other questions will be answered in the Western Massachusetts Health Planning Council's forthcoming directory of "Home Care Services." The directory will tell individuals how to obtain services they might need to help them remain in their home and community when they're ill or are just getting on in age.

The directory will include a

listing of all the medical and social support services in Hampden County. Agencies are now being contacted to determine exactly what types of services they provide, the cost of these services, and agency hours.

Any agencies that have not been contacted and wish to be included in this directory should contact Eileen Rutman from the Western Mass. Health Planning Council at 781-2845. All other inquiries can be directed to the same phone number.

## 'Know Your Consumer Rights' at Hampden County Extension Service

The Hampden County Extension Service is offering a home study program, "Know Your Consumer Rights."

The 5-lesson program is designed to help you learn what your rights are and how to protect these rights. Some topics to be covered include how to make your complaint heard, how to handle unauthorized repairs, when to use Small Claims Court, how to insure your credit rights, and ways to handle rental problems.

For registration information, please call the Home Economics Department of the Hampden County Cooperative Extension Service at 736-7204. Deadline is April 6. The course is available to the

public without regard to race, color, or national origin, but has a small registration fee to cover the cost of materials and printing.

Lessons will be mailed every two weeks, as soon as all registrations are processed.

## Captain Leonard House Seeks Host, Hostess

The Captain Charles Leonard House must secure the services of a new host and hostess as the current ones are unable to continue with their duties.

This 174-year-old community center is an extremely popular meeting place for clubs, parties, receptions, weddings, teas, luncheons, and other social gatherings.

The Leonard House was admitted to the National Register of Historic Places on March 10, 1975, and is a fine example of a spacious, Georgian home. The first floor level of the house has a large meeting room, three small rooms, a large kitchen, and rest rooms.

The second floor has two apartments which are rented

and a third apartment which is reserved for living quarters for the host and hostess at no cost to them.

The responsibilities involved as host and hostess are scheduling events, arranging furniture for these events, light housekeeping, and lawn and grounds care, for which power equipment is supplied.

If you are interested in applying for this opening or would like to know more about it, please contact any one of the following members of the Board of Trustees:

Richard Curry: 786-1452  
Mrs. Ralph Pond: 786-8604  
Mrs. George Reynolds: 789-0328  
Winslow Stahle: 786-7221

## Early Pregnancy Seminar Focuses on Birth Defects

Because they are concerned with good prenatal care and the prevention of birth defects, the Childbirth Education Association and the Pioneer Chapter of the National Foundation March of Dimes have jointly provided funding for an early pregnancy seminar to be conducted by the C.E.A.

The seminar will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Providence Hospital and will emphasize the relation-

ship between proper nutrition and the avoidance of drug intake to fetal growth. Information about early prenatal care will be provided by a registered nurse who is also a C.E.A. instructor and by a professional nutritionist. Films on nutrition and fetal development will also be used.

The seminar is offered to the public free of charge. For further information, call the Childbirth Education Association at 533-1004.

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# Editorials



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to a letter dated March 13th by a Linda Crough.

The intentions of her article were under the guise of saving the Youth Center from "going down the tubes," but her truer intentions lie within trying to "zing" the Athletic Association's sports programs.

I retort with "Who is she kidding?" The average Agawam youth does not participate in the youth center, let alone even know of its existence. It rips me to see a letter of contempt towards the Athletic Association since it's the association that does so very much for our town's children. With competition (yes, Linda), competitiveness being one of our most natural instincts and traits; without it, who would be our leaders and thinkers? Certainly not someone who has been in the herd all his life.

Ms. Crough's viewpoint is just one of the narrowing views put on paper. I hope the next time she writes, she has something to say without knocking a good thing!

**Mrs. Jackie Slamon  
A.A.A. Coach and Proud of it!**

### To the Editor:

As a member of and coach for the Agawam Athletic Association and President of the Agawam Hockey Association, I would like to straighten out Linda Crough who recently wrote a letter in the March 13th issue.

This town is very fortunate to have some of the best run sports programs for kids in the country, staffed by dedicated volunteers who receive no monetary compensation; but are rewarded only by the fact that they provide the children of Agawam with needed, close-to-home, recreational activities.

The sports associations in town are founded on the principle that if a child wants to play a sport, he can play - all who register are given the opportunity to play and develop skills and establish interpersonal relations with other youths their own age.

Granted, the programs are competitively oriented, but our society-free enterprise-is based on competition. Did you ever see two companies vying for a contract - competing in a complex business structure. The New York Yankees would not be World Champions if it weren't for the competitive nature of their sports. Is this wrong?

Like it or not, Ms. Crough, life in these times is competitive - has always been competitive. This is a system that won't be changed - competitiveness is a fact of life that our children must learn about in order to survive.

How many children are able to go white-water rafting, or mountain climbing or back packing with the Youth Center? Fifteen or twenty perhaps? The sports programs in town - the Agawam Athletic Association, the Agawam Hockey Association, the Agawam Little League, the Sacred Heart Athletic Association, the Agawam Park and Rec program - enable thousands of youngsters to participate in fun, educational, inexpensive recreational activities yearly. Most of these activities are self-sustaining and cost the taxpayer very little in

comparison to the tremendous benefits afforded a majority of children in Agawam.

Ms. Crough indicates in her letter that "the program (Youth Center) was established in 1971 and has blossomed into a full time organization." Has she ever heard of Parkinson's Law which states that, "subordinates increase at a fixed rate regardless of the amount of work provided."

**Louis H. Guevin, Jr.**

### To the Editor:

Well, here I am, one of Agawam's "Silent Majority," finally angry enough to write a letter. Guess what I did the other day? I took a ride out to Pheasant Hill to look for myself; maybe you should too.

The typical politics of Agawam have started again; battle lines are drawn, committees and groups formed, the coffee shops are buzzing, and we've become page one again. So, I've done a little thinking and I want to offer my thoughts to you. A few people in town have dedicated years of their lives to help our senior citizens (thank you, Frank Chriscola, Andy Gallano, Phyllis Mason, and others) but it seems that our Senior Citizens come of age at a rapid pace, the Agawam Housing Authority could not fill the need, and a tragic situation developed.

Natives of Agawam who worked all the years, paid the bills, taxes, etc., turned 65 years of age and had a choice: leave town, live with their children, or attempt to survive with a fixed income (inflation-recession), a horrible fate in the golden years.

No group formed, no press, no T.V., no petitions to help them, NO-ONE. Outside of the housing authority and relatives, no one felt their helpless plight: high fuel bills, transportation costs, medical bills, and being alone, unable to earn extra money to exist!! No back room, frustrated politicians came out to help solve their problems; they were truly alone.

An Agawam businessman saw the need; he probably sold their homes for them as they could not afford to stay in Agawam, and did something about it. No talking, no meetings, no deals, no politics - just help these people NOW!!

No need to discuss the three-year battle, but, I'm sure, many of our elderly died while waiting for a good place to live. But now it's up and the first senior citizens are moving in to a place of their own, with Senior Center, open space, woods, recreation area, safety emergency buzzers for instant help and a great atmosphere for their "Golden Years." It could have been a reality three years ago, but the silent majority stayed home gain.

It must be exciting for a "Golden ager" to get the call, "Your apartment is ready at Pheasant Hill!" I know it is; my mother-in-law received her call, and now she is all moved in. Perhaps someone in your family will be lucky enough to get a call. I hope so for their sake.

Bill and I, along with the entire Kozak family, would like to thank Beltrandi Associates for making this possible.

**Yours truly,  
Mrs. Nancy Kozak  
Robin Ridge Drive  
Feeding Hills**

## From the State House

by Rep. Edward W. Connelly  
Third Hampden District

The tempo at the State House will increase from a waltz to a disco beat, starting this Monday. A good portion of the Committee hearings have been accomplished and those results "ought to pass" and "ought not to pass" will appear on the debate calendar.

Two items which may assume major proportions will be the Governor's Municipal Tax Cap message - now resolved by committee and utilizing three major ingredients to wit: 4% above Fiscal 1979 spending for general government and 4% for school budgets and 2/3 local legislative vote required to exceed those limits. The Governor, who meant for the cities and towns to stay within the 1979 spending approved for fiscal 1979, has already expressed his disapproval of this action. The Committee on Taxation also decreed that their recommendation be instituted for a two year period. We can expect a host of amendments to be offered in behalf of advocates who feel that 4% limits do not properly address the actual rate of national inflation.

The Washington, D.C. Amendment which would allow the District to have representation in the Congress will also be on the calendar. The pros and cons are numerous and should pit the liberal elements of the House against some moderates and the conservative element.

It is expected that "ought not to pass" decisions by the Committee for Energy with regard to moratorium on nuclear plant construction in Massachusetts will also provide active debate.

The Chairman of Ways and Means also intends to start public hearings on the budget message on April 2, and these should take up the whole month, with a report to the floor of the House around mid-May.

### To the Editor:

I am grieved that a democratic process has been thrown out the window in the case of whether Agawam should be host or not of a racetrack venture.

In November of 1976 the people of Hampden County availed themselves of the privilege and democratic right to go to the election polls and cast their ballots for candidates to fill various federal, state and local offices. They also were given the opportunity to vote on several questions dealing with the workings of government. One of those questions was asking if people were in favor of on-track parimutuel betting. As I recall, the people voted yes throughout most of Hampden County. The people of Agawam, in particular, voted in favor of this question. This to me says the people of

Agawam wanted this racetrack.

Since there is the remnants of a racetrack from a bygone era in the town of Agawam and the people expressed their desire for a track, where is the logical place to build this track? The answer to many people must have been the old track in the town of Agawam.

A promoter, seeing as how the townspeople have indicated their desire through a perfectly legal procedure, submits a plan to our town council outlining what he has in mind. This brings out those who voted against and find difficulty in accepting the defeat, beefed up by those who did not bother to vote at all. They somehow are able to convince the councilors to completely ignore the vote at the ballot box. The promoter starts to feel the council's dissension and withdraws the plan.

## The Sad Saga of Route 57

An Observation

by Ric Sardella

Once again the town of Agawam is facing the type of back-room politicking that has stalled the completion of the Route 57 bypass for a very long time.

The 14.5 million dollar relocation project has become seriously jeopardized by some self seeking members of a trio of regional agencies. These personages have used their influence through the utilization of fancy phrases and "environmental concerns" about wetlands to cloak their own pet projects that the 57 bypass could clearly hurt upon its completion. Apparently the people of Agawam and their safety must wait until another unnecessary bureaucratic study is completed by those who hope Rte. 57 will eventually be laid to rest on the desk of some state or federal official.

The three agencies in question are the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, its advisory Joint Transportation Committee and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority formerly headed by Terry Tornek, a former Springfield city Councilor and resident of the Sumner Avenue area.

Also expressing "concern" about the 57 bypass is the Springfield City Council and Mayor Theodore Dimauro. Springfield's elected officials recently forwarded a resolution to the office of Senator Paul Tsongas to determine if a full environmental impact study can be undertaken on the proposed 57 project. Another group adding their two cents of interest in the matter is the Forest Park Civic Association who claim the completion of 57 would shift the traffic burden from Agawam to Springfield.

The evening of March 5 was when the LPVRPC voted by an 11-7 margin their opposition to the project and challenged the State's Department of Public Works decision to waive a full environmental impact study. Make no mistake about it. Many ballots were cast long before the commissioners even sat down to review the project.

Present at the meeting was Agawam State Representative Edward Connelly. Connelly has been acting as a liaison officer between the Agawam Town Council's Rte. 57 committee and the state. Connelly said he had no "illusions" to what happened that evening. He feels the entire matter has been soured by certain individuals who are attempting to pull a fast one on the town.

The state legislator artfully refuted the commissions objections presented by Timothy Brennan, a planner for the Joint Transportation Committee.

Connelly disclosed to commission members that the town is undertaking "spot upgrading" of 57 as soon as the "frost leaves the ground." Connelly said these improvements, agreed upon by Agawam and the state, are only cosmetic and will not rectify the overall safety problem presented by the motorway. The regional planning commission contends however, these "improvements" could be sufficient.

As for the South End Bridge which has raised quite a furor, Connelly cited a 1990 date as the interval when traffic on the bridge will be virtually uncontrollable with or without the completion of the bypass. "And the Mayor of Springfield knows this well," Connelly added.

On point three concerning the wetlands in question, Connelly reminded the commission that the present location of the bypass was agreed upon by all parties concerned. He said the wetlands have been identified by Agawam's officials along with state officials. "And this board gave the go-ahead for the bypass at its present location, until the eleventh hour," Connelly added. All Connelly got for his efforts were evasive remarks from Mr. Brennan.

The Pioneer Transit Authority is a fine case in point where self interest stands in the way of Agawam's needs. Tornek and his group are against 57 since its policy to promote buses over roads. The completion of 57 simply dampens the PVTA's chances of creating a public transit network in this neck of the woods.

The Springfield City Council and Dimauro's role fits very nicely into this linked opposition. On Dimauro's mind, and no doubt the Council's as well, is that the completion of 57 enhances the success for the Beltrandi-Charkoudian proposed industrial park. According to the developers, the business complex could turn Agawam into a competitive economic base for other surrounding area's to contend with.

At this time, the Sumner Avenue business district known as the X is attempting to revitalize itself. Councilor Robert Markel, the initiator of the city's resolution lives in the Sumner Avenue section of the City along with a number of other members of that body. Between the alleged traffic problems the completion of 57 could cause on that area, combined with the Beltrandi business park, it is no surprise Markel sponsored the resolution.

Dimauro's credibility rests with the economic facelift of the downtown vicinity. Dimauro is up against a suburban situation that is counter productive to the rebirth of the city's central business district.

It seems nearly every community in Greater Springfield has shopping malls or easy access to them. In some instances, industrial parks desperately trying to solicit merchants are located in these suburban settings. The last thing Dimauro needs is another entity which could have negative ramifications on his pet project.

As for the Forest Park Civic Association which is directly involved with the X rehabilitation, our understanding is that Tornek is a very influential force on that association. They speak of the South End Bridge. But we smell special interest as far as Tornek is concerned.

Many of the people who make up the PVTA, JCT, snf Many of the people who make up the PVTA, JCT and LPVPC live in communities sporting these shopping malls and industrial parks. Picture the look on their faces when they learned of the Beltrandi-Charkoudian proposition. Beltrandi has made no secret of the importance a quick completion of 57 has on his business park. These individuals must have reacted negatively to this business park in Agawam since it could eventually have adverse effects on business interests in their communities. By shooting down the 57 bypass, it probably brings down Beltrandi with it. Killing "two birds with one stone" as the old cliché goes.

Its unfortunate the Beltrandi proposal came along at this time in regards to 57. Thus, between buses, revitalization of certain city areas and the possible impact on surrounding communities a competitive Agawam business base could present, all of the above named committees, individuals and special interest groups have used preventative measures to nix Rte. 57 in the eleventh hour.

But what about the people of Agawam? As Connelly correctly noted, "the heavily congested double lane stretch of Rte. 57 is becoming increasingly dangerous." "State and federal authorities have indicated their satisfaction with all initial reports done on environmental impacts of Rte. 57," Connelly added.

Connelly believes the environmental report these agencies are calling for could take up to two years to finalize at a cost of some 4 million dollars to the taxpayer. Connelly also seems quite afraid that the state and federal agencies involved may wash their hands of the entire mess because of the controversy and aggravation surrounding the highways extension.

Another area which those in opposition of 57 have failed to address is the amount of time, money and construction already put into the bypass. According to Connelly, further delay will only serve to make the thoroughfare rise in cost due to inflation.

One can only hope the state and federal agencies will see through the paradox presented by those who can only benefit from Rte. 57 remaining in drawing board content. The overall losers are the people of Agawam. Such is the sad case of Rte. 57.



Letters to the Editor continued

To the Editor:

Concerning the person who criticized your article "The Agawam Connection" and yet did not have the courage to sign his or her name, but instead chose to sign "A Happy Toker" is more in my opinion an "Unhappy Toker and a possible Drug Addict."

I have seen people who were high on pot and barbituates and they are a sad lot. For one thing, they defy authority and think they can do anything they want and everyone else is a dummy, and most of the time you cannot talk sense to them.

This person states he has been on pot for six years and can go without it if he cannot get it. I think he or she only wishes he could.

For I get a different story from some of the Vietnam Vets I have talked to who were addicted while in Vietnam. Some of those vets agree had it not been for pot, hash, etc. that some of those soldiers killed would not have been.

This same person also states that what students do with their time while in school is their business. Well, he or she is wrong for the student is there to study and improve his or her education and not to smoke pot or pop pills and destroy school property which we taxpayers have to pay for.

And whether those individuals know it or not, such goings-on make a bad name for the school which is trying to make the school one of the best, not just in the town but throughout the whole country.

In my opinion, most vandalism is caused by such

people, be it in school or outside the school. I believe vandalism and dope are becoming more of a problem than alcoholism.

For example, every time you pick up a newspaper and read about an arrest for any type of crime, the police always seem to confiscate hash, pot, or some other type of dope.

It's too bad that a small minority have to spoil it for the rest and I know what I am writing about for any time that school is in session, all you have to do is walk into the rest rooms, boys or girls, and you can smell the sickening smell of hash or pot or grass or whatever you wish to call it.

Then see the outcome, vulgar words written on the walls, damages to paper dispensers, sinks, and toilets, etc. Just in the area I work, which is the boys' and girls' gym section, the damage to

school property is unbelievable. You're forever replacing paper dispensers, taking writing off walls, fire extinguishers are emptied, some stolen, chocolate milk splattered on ceilings and walls of both rooms and halls.

Believe me, the custodians of the Agawam School System sure earn every cent they are paid, yet I understand they are the lowest paid in the state.

Yet when they report some of those things mentioned to the proper authorities, they get a "What can I do?" answer, and that is as far as it gets.

Of course, I can't say the blame is all the students for the staff, from the principal on down, as well as parents are also responsible as they do not assert the discipline that is needed to correct these problems. And unless something is done, and soon,

it will get worse instead of better, and it may well get out of hand as has happened in other schools in the surrounding towns and cities.

I would like at this time to say one thing - your paper is one of the greatest I have yet encountered. It has a lot to offer the people of Agawam which other papers do not. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
E. C. Isabelle  
A custodian Agawam Senior High School

**Audit Subcommittee**

There will be a meeting of the Town Council's subcommittee for the town audit on March 26 at 7:15 p.m. to be held in the Community Room of the library at 750 Cooper Street.

**School Committee**

The Agawam School Committee will hold a special meeting for the purpose of discussing the budget in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1305 Springfield Street, on March 20 at 7 p.m.

**Conservation Committee**

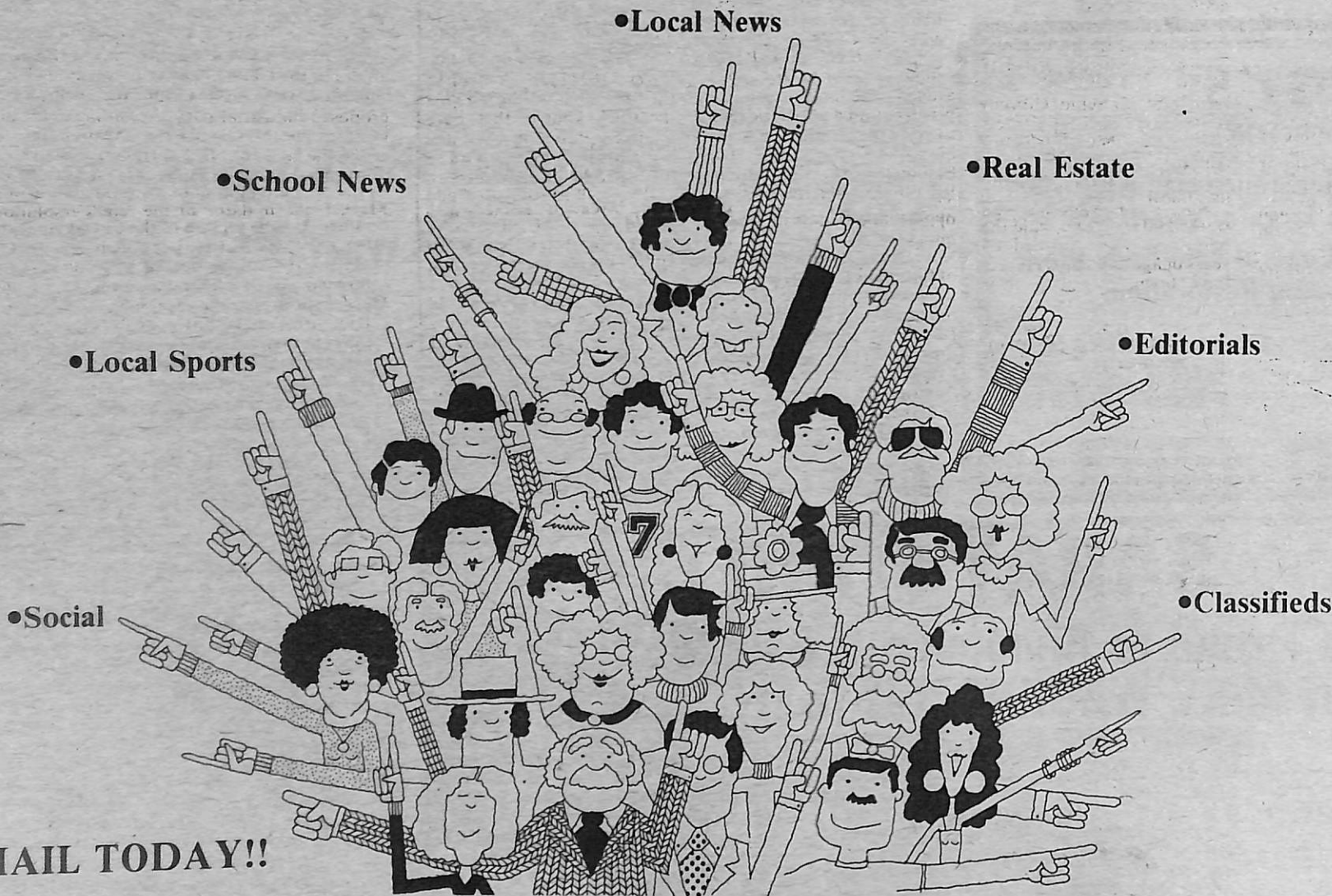
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Hearing Room, 36 Main Street.

**Board of Health**

The Agawam Board of Health will meet Thursday, March 22, at 7:45 p.m. in the Health Department office.

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# Sports

## St. John's Overcome Agawam Custodian for 10-12 Laurels

Once again, it was the iron men against the fast men in the Agawam Athletic Association's 10-12 championship finale. The best two out of three playoff was tied one game apiece. The winner would have bragging rights once and for all.

A large and vocal crowd watched a very fine match indeed, but when the smoke cleared and the applause earning had subsided, St. John's became the league's newly crowned kingpins while Agawam Custodian would have to settle for runnerup honors. The scoreboard's 53-43 reading at the final buzzer was the largest victory margin Jim Mahoney's squad enjoyed over the much taller and more physical Custodians in their three meetings this season. Mahoney credited teamwork and speed as the key ingredients to the outcome.

"Just look at the final statistics and it indicates that everyone out there con-

tributed in his own way," Mahoney maintained. "I have some very unselfish players who really understand what a team effort is."

A check of the scorers' log reveals that not only was the effort an overall one by St. John's, but people like Mike Keefe and Mike Sardella put on their best exhibitions of the entire schedule. When something like that happens, the seeds of victory are well sown.

"Kevin (O'Keefe) was just super out there today," Mahoney lauded. "He really loosened them up with his outside shooting and he helped out on the boards which we needed against a team with size and strength."

St. John's reliables Jeff Losito and Mike Beaudette kicked in 15 and 12 respectively which was somewhat below their regular season point outputs. But O'Keefe's 10 and Sardella's 12 added the kind of balance St. John's sorely needed. Custodian's 50-36

walloping of St. John's Thursday evening in game two saw Losito and Beaudette blanketed by Custodian defenders, which enabled Scott Massoia's crew to force a third and deciding game.

The Custodian's mammoth center Dave Perillo put on a one man show off the backboards with 27 rebounds. "Perillo Power" as the sign on a wall read tabulated 10 points to his tally but 6 of them came late in the fourth period. A very disappointed Scott Massoia, the Custodians coach from the high school's class of 1979, felt St. John's shutting off Perillo on the offensive iron was the key to the eventual outcome.

"Dave had a great game on the boards, but most of them came on defense," Massoia said. "When Dave cannot get the ball inside it hurts our game overall and that's exactly when happened today."

Each quintet ripped the cords often during a very entertaining first period. The lead changed hands six times. A banker by forward Dan Shaunnessey put Custodian out front 12-11, but Beaudette rifled in an outside release to answer Shaunnessey's hoop. Blair Massoia, another one of Custodian's good sized stock canned a jumper before time elapsed in the opening session, to push Custodian ahead 14-13.

From a spectator's point of view, the second 10 minutes changed the bout's entire tempo and momentum. The vaunted St. John's fast break which had been out of frequency for all of game two and also during the first quarter of this contest began showing signs of life.

Sardella and Beaudette both scored buckets off the running attack while the entire St. John team began moving the ball upcourt in a much swifter fashion, something which would have adverse effects on the more deliberate Custodians. O'Keefe and Massoia traded baskets of the offensive rebound variety during the final 30 seconds of play in that second stanza which had elevated St. John's into a three point lead at 25-22.

After Custodian point guard Todd Lockwood stole the ball from Losito for an easy two points right off the bat in the third period, the St.



The Agawam Custodian and Maintenance Association's 10-12 team is pictured above. From left to right, front row: Michael Kavam, Bill Malachowski, Dave Shaughnessy, Todd Duda, and Blair Massoia. Second row, same order: John Alves, Tom Lockwood, Matt Gruska, and Donald Vinton. Third row: Coach Chuck Mickey, David Perillo, and Coach Dean Vecchiarelli.

John road race began priming for the kill.

A steal by Beaudette for two, another theft by Losito for a bucket, a corner swish by O'Keefe and a Beaudette to Sardella connection after the former had stolen the ball from Lockwood forged St. John's into a 38-30 advantage after three quarters. Perillo did not get any kind of inside position under the St. John hoop mainly because Mike Mahoney was all over the huge Custodian center. Most of the Custodian shots were from downtown which is very uncustomary for a squad who lives off its offensive backboards.

A jumper by Lockwood with about two minutes

remaining in the final quarter brought Custodian to within 48-43. But the American Division champs would not score again. A fast break layup by Sardella at the 42 second mark and Beaudette's unmolested dash to the hoop with 20 ticks of the clock remaining notorized the Custodian fate.

"Their fast break definitely bothered us in the second half. We just didn't get back on defense as fast as we could have," Massoia said. "I think their running game shook the kids up a bit. But I'm proud of my kids, they had one great season."

The losers scoring column shows a pretty good balance. Behind Perillo's 10, Todd

Duda and Massoia each chipped in 8, Lockwood had 7 and Shaunnessey 6. But Custodian shot a poor 35% from the floor which was well before their regular form.

Mahoney said the luck of the Irish was on his quintet's side on this St. Patrick's Day. He also revealed that the kids had dedicated the contest to Mr. Bill Ezold, Mahoney's father-in-law who passed away last Monday. Mr. Ezold was St. John's most loyal and supportive fan this season.

"It was an emotional week for all of us but the kids really are a great bunch to work with. All I did was try to direct traffic, they did the real work."

## Agawam Blackhawks End Season Await Playoffs

The 10-12 A Blackhawks, coached by Ed Drewnowski, ended the regular hockey season with a busy week.

On Thursday, they played the Jr. Whalers, putting forth a very fine effort, but coming up short by a score of 3-1.

Agawam's only goal was scored by Peter Sibilia, with assists from Erik Blanchard and Kevin Mercadante.

The first league game of the week was a little easier with a win over Longmeadow 6-2. Kevin Mercadante scored 3 goals with assists from Joe Dussault, Paul Ferraro, and Mike Santori.

Jay Passerini scored twice and Dennis Drewnowski scored once. They were assisted by John O'Malley, Dean Liptak, Paul Ferraro, and John Spellacy.

On Sunday, the Blackhawks played Westfield and had to settle for a 4-4 tie. Chris Juzba's shot from the blue line with less than a minute left to play tied the game up.

Other goals were scored by John O'Malley and Dennis Drewnowski. They received assists from Jay Passerini, Peter Sibilia, Kevin Mercadante, and Erik Blanchard.

In the final game of the week, a game which proved

why Van Horn leads the division in total penalty minutes, Agawam lost 2-1 with only 26 seconds left to play.

Peter Sibilia was injured after being checked extremely hard into the boards and had to leave the game for X-rays. Fortunately he was waned badly hurt.

The Blackhawks played good, aggressive hockey with each player giving a little something extra. Kevin Mercadante was the only player with an unassisted goal. David Liptak in goal had his work cut out for him all week, but came through with his usual great effort. His good goaltending has kept the Blackhawks in contention all season.

Playoffs are scheduled to start soon. The season will end with Agawam hosting a group of skaters from Montreal on April 6, 7, and 8 and traveling to Montreal on April 27, 28, and 29.

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## Polish Club Takes 13-15 Crown

The league's best big man did his thing in a very big way Saturday afternoon in the Agawam Athletic Association's 13-15 final at the Junior High gym.

The Polish Club's beanpole center, Rick Messenger came charging off the bench after a quarter and a half of inactivity to lead the Polish men to a 49-31 thrashing of rival Village Lounge in the rubber match of the circuit's championship playoff.

Messenger canned 3 field goals and 7 rebounds to break a third quarter's 29-29 death struggle into an 18 point rout during the decisive fourth period when the Polish Club outscored Village Lounge 20-2.

Messenger had been relegated to bench duty for over 16 minutes after he picked up his third foul midway through the second stanza. Polish Club coach Phil Vecchiarelli decided to sit Messenger for the entire third quarter, then re-enter him to the scene in the final period. It was a big gamble on Vecchiarelli's part, but this one played off with the ultimate dividends.

"Give my assistant coaches all the credit for sitting Rick in the third quarter," Vecchiarelli. They figured that if the subs could keep things close until the final period we would be in good shape with Rick back in, he added in the jubilant post game locker-room.

Losing mentor Jim Consolini cited Messenger as the difference in the final outcome, although he felt the Polish Club played extremely well considering both Messenger and guard Leo Chenovort were watching from the sidelines a good portion of the match due to foul trouble.

"I wasn't very disappointed that we didn't pull ahead in the second half," Consolini said. "It would have been nice to have a lead going into the fourth quarter but we erased their halftime lead and I'll take that anyway against that team."

Consolini's charges certainly have nothing to be ashamed of. They battled their opponents to a virtual stalemate for 30 minutes of action. Unfortunately, the final margin of defeat indicated a blow out on the Village Lounge part.

"What can I say about the fourth quarter," Consolini lamented. "We gave them all they could handle for three periods then we just fell apart."

The walls crashed in on Village Lounge with a thunderous sonic boom in the first two and a half minutes of the last quarter on the 1979 season. A jumper by forward Billy Egan, a quick pop by Messenger and another lightning flurry from the same duo vaulted the Polish Club into an eight point bulge at 37-29.

A zone press instituted by Vecchiarelli also played an important role in the Lounge's downfall. Lounge guards Jim Wager and Scott Consolini could not slow the frantic Polish Club pace which had led to eight straight points. Things just got worse as the period progressed. It was not until the six minute mark did the Lounge point total move on the scoreboard. By that time Vecchiarelli's forces were in full command at 45-31.

"I think when Billy (Egan) hit that jump shot right off the bat was what got us off and running in the fourth period," Vecchiarelli said.

"The kids moved the ball and played with the kids of desire that makes a champion."

Messenger had 10 points and 12 rebounds in just under 24 minutes of play. Chenovort, the squad's hustling floor general netted 6 points, 5 steals and 9 assists. Not bad for an afternoon's work.

But there were other heroes in the Polish Club's winning effort. Forward David Vecchiarelli is one. Forward Joe Maynard is another. Vecchiarelli made his presence felt on the offensive scene while Maynard played an outstanding defensive contest, especially when Messenger was out of the lineup.

"Those two guys really did the job for us and without them, we would never have won," Vecchiarelli praised. "Joe did a great job under the boards against their big man which kept us in there until the last quarter."

Vecchiarelli (the coach's younger brother) twisted and turned for 10 first half points and 2 buckets in the second half, totaling 14 points to lead all point getters. Maynard snared 11 balls off the iron and did a yeoman's job on the Lounge's string bean pivot man, Bob Hitchcock. Hitchcock grabbed 18 rebounds during the contest despite the enforcer like effort Maynard played during some heavy inside activity. Hitchcock also bagged 12 points to his credit.

"We beat them four out of five this season, but we really had to work for everything we got," Vecchiarelli said of the five encounters between the 13-15's best. "We just seemed to have that little extra hustle and intensity to come out on top every time except one."

Mike Jennette, the Lounge's very fine forward was held to just a single basket in the second half after scoring 10 in the first 20 minutes of action. Vecchiarelli believes the defensive efforts of Maynard and sub Pete Rigo helped negate Jennette's bothersome archery from the corners, which was directly responsible for the Lounge's opening victory in the best two out three series last Tuesday night.

"We tried to put as much pressure on Jennette and their guard to make them take the outside shots," Vecchiarelli said. "Most of the time they shot in the second half my kids were hanging all over them. It had to make a difference."

## Southwick Hockey News

Southwick's 6-8 New England By-Products team played South Hadley in a non-league game. Mark Frappier scored the first two unassisted goals, and other goals were scored by David Humiston (2) and Mark Hosmer (1), with assists going to Frappier and Humiston.

The last three goals were scored in an exciting last two minutes with the clock beating Southwick in a final score of 6-5.

Stacy Neill and Joey Gentry notched their 8th shutout of the season to lead the Southwick 8-10 Police team to a victory over Wilbraham 4-0.

Patrick McDonnell scored the hat trick with Russell Sabadosa getting the other goal. Two assists went to Danny Champiny, and one each to McDonnell and Sabadosa.

Some fine defensive plays were made by Skip Hathaway and Robbie Haramut during the penalty-filled game. Defenseman Chuck Wilson made some outstanding plays in front of the Southwick net.

The team's high-spirited attitude and confidence in themselves has rought them to second place.

Southwick's 10-12 Firemen lost to Holy Cross 5-3. Two goals were scored by Sean O'Clair and one by Steve Galvin. The team played an excellent game to overcome a score of 4-0.

Doug Pepe played well in his first full game in the net. Improvement in position play, skating, and attitude have been the high points of this year's work, according to Coach Chris Sheldon. He is not at all disappointed at not having won by scores.

The team will take on the Southwick Firemen in a game on March 17 to wrap up the season.

Southwick's 12-14 Chuck Steak House team lost to 16 Acres 4-3 in a good, hard-skating game. Goals were scored by Doug Sullivan, Joey Myette, and Gene Davidson. It was a tough game to lose for the Southwick boys.



The Agawam Athletic Association's 13-15, St. John's team is pictured above. First row, from left to right: Mike Petrone, Jim Dowd, Bernie Petrone, George Russell, and Mark Snyders. Second Row, same order: Dave Beck, Ralph Albano, Coach Nick Korny, Tom Pemberton, and Dave Bowe.

## F.H. Woman Receives Athletic Award

Carolyn J. Pacewicz of Feeding Hills received an athletic award for basketball at the recent Nichols College winter sports banquet.

Ms. Pacewicz, a freshman, is also a member of the

cheerleading squad at Nichols. A graduate of Agawam High School, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pacewicz of 16 Red Oaks Circle.

## Swim at YMCA

The Springfield YMCA will begin a new program entitled "Synchronized Swimming" beginning the first week of April. The 10-week program, held in the pool, will take place Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00. A second class will take place on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00. For more information, contact the YMCA at 739-6951.

## 'Life & Breath' Bowling Week

The Western Massachusetts Candlepin Bowling Association will be hosting a "Life and Breath" Bowling week to benefit the Western Mass. Lung Association during April 1-7.

The entry fee will be \$1 donation, and the tournament will be conducted during league play. A top prize of an "Escape Weekend" for two to the Springfield Marriott Hotel will go to the winner. In addition, prizes will be available to secondary winners in each house.

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## In the 8-10, It's Century Auto

Perhaps the most significant fact about Century Auto in the last three years has been their consistency. It's been a long time since a Jim Frogameni coached Century Auto has fallen to defeat during this steady rise to the top of the heap. This season was no exception.

Led by all stars Dave Pemberton and Todd Bennett, the automen blitzed to a perfect 10-0 record with many of their victories being of the knockout variety. While the 10-12 and 13-15 leagues were basking in neck and neck struggles that were not decided until a championship final, Frogameni's charges never received more than a threatening glance in the 78-79 session.

"I never really thought we would do this well at the beginning of the season, but once we got going the kids just seemed to get better," Frogameni said. "Some of the kids who played on last year's team remembered what it was like losing the championship game so they came back to win it all this year."

Century Auto's 77-78 squad ran through an unblemished season a year ago before bowing to Abbot Taxi in the playoffs. Century has not lost a regularly scheduled contest since February 26, 1977. Frogameni credits fine talent combined with intense desire from his players as the key ingredients to his overall success.

"We've been very fortunate to have been blessed with some very capable talent. But it always seems they come to learn and play. To keep a streak like this alive you have to want to go out and do your best at all times," he said in reference to the 22 consecutive seasonal matches his club has won since late in the 77 campaign.

Because the 8-10 league was reduced to a single division after years of sporting a pair of competitive circuits, the first place finisher gained the league crown without a playoff in 79. Post season activity would only occur if a deadlock of the top spot transpired. The high powered attack and swarming defense by Century made certain they laid sole claim to the Agawam Athletic Association laurels.

Pemberton and Bennett both had marvelous seasons. Pemberton averaged 23 points per outing from his center position. Bennett, on the other hand, did his thing from the backcourt slot. Besides leading the fast break, Bennett became well known around the league for his ball hawking activities which often led to the swelling of the scoreboard in Century's favor. Frogameni lauded the duo, especially for their improvement from a year ago.

"Dave (Pemberton) and Todd (Bennett) were vastly improved from last season. Dave was more mobile and rebounded much better while Todd became one of the better ballhandlers in the league. I feel very fortunate to have had them on my team."

As Frogameni correctly pointed out, there were others wearing Century colors who chipped in with the kids of consistency that makes a winning tradition continue. The mentor lauded guard Tim Lockwood, and front liners Richard Rodgers and Tony Frogameni for their contributions to the effort.

"One thing that was very noticeable on this team is that all the starters were very active and involved in the action," noted Frogameni in listing other factors to Century's success. "I think the kids played very well as a unit, especially the defensive game which keyed our high point totals."

With Rodgers and

A team record of 14-1 and Jerry Mason's placing first in this season's state championships and second in the New England tournament were focal points of the dinner sponsored by the Agawam High School Wrestling Booster Club.

Held at the Polish-American Club in Feeding Hills on Sunday, March 11, the Club's president, Salvatore Morassi, introduced the head table comprised of Coach and Mrs. Phil Tomkiel, assistant coaches Vinnie Grasseti and John Hellenco, School Committeeman and Mrs. Richard Borgatti, and WHYN Sportscenter Jack O'Neill, speaker for the occasion.

O'Neill's timely comments were well-received by an attentive, large audience, as he stressed the maturity and devotion that a wrestler must have to sacrifice himself personally and for the team to maintain his weight classification, train rigorously seven days a week during the season, and to present himself in the circle of competition by giving more than the 100% required of an athlete.

O'Neill went on to state that this type of dedication will have a great carry-over effect

in each young man's personal life now and in the future.

Coach Tomkiel indicated that one of his finest moments this season occurred when the Brownies dumped Tech, his alma mater. He also pointed out that Agawam only has a three-year wrestling program, whereas many other schools start theirs in junior high school. However, even with this disadvantage, Agawam ranked in the top 10 in the state.

Jerry Mason received the Most Valuable Senior award. Other seniors receiving plaques were Al Boulay, Mario Mercadante, Gus Yacteen, Dan Guthrie, Frank Bonavita, Gary Geiger, John Morassi, Ross Fogg, Jay Barry, and Chuck Mickey.

Tomkiel selected his co-captains for next season - Steve Fields, Bob Schwein, and Paul Zerbinopoulos will share the honors.

The "house" gave a standing ovation to Ed Judkins, the team's bus driver and one of their most loyal fans, who, with his son Mike, has never missed a match.

A slide presentation by Mr. Joseph Munley covered highlights of many of this year's jousts and rounded out a top-shelf program.

Frogameni on the forward wall, Century had three heavy hitters off the backboards. Opposing quintets found it very difficult to establish any type of inside authority against the kind of iron that the trio of Rodger, Frogameni and Pemberton presented. Lockwood was known as a highly aggressive specialist of the defensive trade that often wrecked havoc on enemy guards.

Also receiving praise from the Century helmets were subs Dave Allen, Jimmy Lockwood, Henry Kozlowski and Steve Chenevert. Frogameni said these performers easily fitted into the flow of action whenever beckoned to active duty.

Nello Grasseti, a three year partner in plotting strategy on the sidelines with Frogameni also should be recognized for his invaluable contributions, according to the Century Lead coach.

"Nello has always been there when the kids needed

him and I really don't think we would be as successful without him on the sidelines."

Frogameni, who has been with the league since its inception, believes the AAA has offered local youth many golden opportunities to compete in a well organized atmosphere over the years. He feels especially gratified that many of his former players have graduated into the upper levels with a high degree of accomplishment and then continue to excel.

"It's really nice to watch some of my former players doing well when they get to the 10-12 or 13-15 leagues. Usually one of the things that sticks out in my mind is the improvement of the kids from the beginning of the season to the end. Some of the kids who really did not have any knowledge of the game or even the most basic fundamentals progressed as the season went along. I think that is very important."

## Welcome to My World

by Charles J. Duclos

## Wrestlers Rest

## Sportsmen's Corner

by Bill Chiba



We adults take many facts of outdoor life and its occupants for granted and file trivia about the eco-systems in the back of our heads. Suddenly, the deadened facts are brought to life by a question from our children, or in my case, grandchildren.

Question: "Gramps, how can you tell the age of a turtle and did you ever catch a snapping turtle?" Believe me, that started a chain reaction of thoughts.

Going back to my early youth, I recall traveling to Silver Lake in Agawam with two of my closest buddies and catching pickerel and trout of good size. We had to be very quiet for the caretaker of the ice house would shuck us out. Vandals had done damage to the ice house at one time so everybody had to suffer the consequences. Fishing was taboo.

At the upper end of the lake in the mud lived enormous snapping turtles. We would take off our shoes and wade in the slime. When we felt a large lump in the mud with our feet, we would reach down and pull out a turtle.

When I think about it now, I shiver. Why the turtles did not nail on to one of our pinkies is a mystery to this day. I recall that some of those turtles were monsters, and it would take two of us to lift them up out of the water and carry them to shore.

Another incident that remains vividly in my mind is the turtles one of my uncles caught with a rope at Congamond Lakes. He remarked that two turtles were fighting on the surface of North pond. He glided up on them in a canoe and was able to snare one of the giants with a bit of rope.

As I think back on it, instead of fighting, they were mating. However, the turtle was as big around as a washtub and weighed nearly 100 pounds. My grandmother had it hanging off the clothesline pole in the back yard. Later she boiled it in a washtub, removed the meat, made a delicious soup and other delicacies from the

meat. The shell was a piece talked about for many years.

In order to answer my grandson's question, a little research had to be done. We know that the shell is a protective cover for the reptile. However, on close inspection, it can reveal the turtle's age, sex, and species.

Some species of turtles have rings on the scales of their shells. Each year the turtle grows a new ring, so you can count the rings and guess the turtle's age.

I recall one of the admirers of the turtle my uncle caught saying that the monster was 150 years old. The method isn't foolproof for the rings do wear down as the turtle gets older.

There are over 79 species and sub-species of turtles in North America, and the turtle shell is used for identification.

Yes, it is amazing what an innocent question from a babe will bring forth from the backs of our minds!

Vermont's spring turkey season is May 5-20, but a free hunting permit is required. Anyone with a 1979 hunting license is eligible to receive a turkey hunting permit through the mail, so if you want to get in on some of the best turkey gobbling hunting in the Northeast, now is the time to apply, the spring season is for gobblers only, and only one bird is allowed for this season.

Hunting hours are 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day, and hunters must be out of the woods by noon.

You apply for a permit by writing the State Wildlife Lab, Roxbury, Vermont 05669. Put the name turkey on the front of the envelope. Print your name, address, and the number and letter of your 1979 Vermont hunting license.

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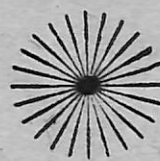
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# Agawam A.A. Teams Finish Season



The 10-12 Feeding Hills Hardware team. Front row, left to right: Tom Hanson, Anthony Antico, Mike Govoni, and Mike McCrystal. Second row: Brian Kane, Jim Wright, and Ric Costa. Third row: Brian Stepanik, coach George Noonan, and Lou Carranza.



The Girls 8-10 Graphic Printing team is shown here. Front row, from left: Angela Shuman, Angela Valego, Maria Valego and Tricia Landry. Second row: Kathy Landry, Brenda Bailey, and Kelli Trudell. Third row: coach Ed Landry, Tina DelBarba, and coach Coleen Dalton.



The boys 8-10 Pioneer Valley Auto team is pictured above. Front row, left to right: Joe Hoffman, Alan Boucher, Robi Longo, and Joe Cini. Second row: Joe Antico, Mike Haten, and Leo Boucher. Third row: Joe Cini, Robi Gaynor, and Wayne Ricci.



The girls 8-10 Agawam Police Association team is pictured above. Front row, from left: Kelley Erskine, Kara Tebaldi and Lisa Connor. Second row: Abbie-Jean Sheehan, Holly Hitchcock, and Andrea Tebaldi. Third row, Coach Larry Sheehan and Sue Uschmann.



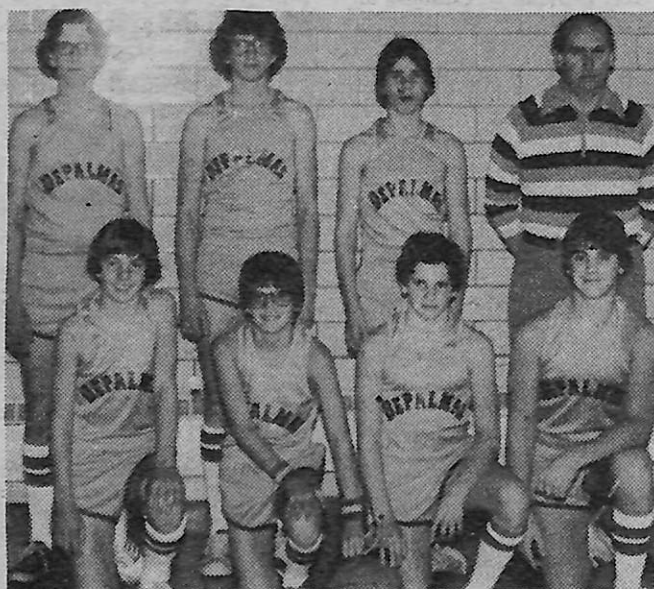
The boys 8-10 St. Theresa's team. Front row, left to right: Philip Barry, Ricky Brown, Jim Laudato, and Mark Lyne. Second row: David Jurkowski, Chris O'Leary, and Mike Lunden. Third row, Ralph Myers and Roger Brown.



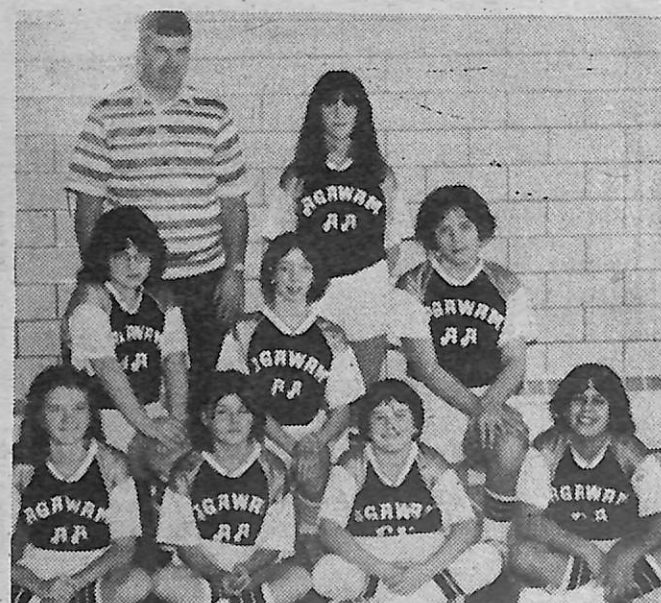
The 10-12 Suburban Realty team is coached by Al Bonavita. Team members are, front row, from left: Richard Neal, Michael Sheehan, Mark Tessichini. Second row: Alan Maza and Chris Gregory. Third row: John DelBarba, Bonavita, and Scott Pemperton.



The Valley Community Church 8-10 boys are pictured above. Front row, from left: Fred Fruith, Keith Leal, Nick Carrea, and Wayne Leal. Second row: Skip Cone, Brian Trombly, and Mike Jemilio. Third row, Rich Leal and Arnie Cone.



The boys 13-15 Depalma Motors team is shown here. Front row, left to right: Dave Hansen, Joe Mazza, Ed Hottin, and Mike Quill. Second row: Jeff Allen, Mike Parent, Pat Connors, and coach Jerry Quill.



The girls 10-12 Agawam Lions Club team is pictured above. Front row, from left: Debbie Villeneuve, Melissa Copple, Cathy Sheehan and Gina Frasco. Second row: Michelle Early, Kim Craven, and Mary Barnes. Third row: Coach Larry Sheehan, and Lee Ann Sandlin.



Boys 13-15 Associated Air Freight is shown here. Front row, left to right: J. Darnell, S. Negrucci, T. LaBrique, C. Ober, and B. Sutton. Second Row: Coach B. McCabe, T. Liquori, S. Grassetti, J. Hill, T. Bennett, and coach G. Skowera.



The boys 13-15 Village Package Store team is shown above. Front row, from left: Jim Mahoney, Mike Desmarais, Doug Chevalier, Jim Podgorski and Steve Radwilowicz. Second row: coach Larry Sheehan, Donald Hawkes, Nate Harrimann, Dave Podgorski, and coach Jim Mahoney.





The Agawam Advertiser/News is pleased to announce a new weekly feature entitled *Kids Korner*. We feel the Agawam youngsters will enjoy having some input into their town newspaper.

*Kids Korner thanks Danahy School for their enthusiastic response to this column. We'll be hearing a lot from the students there in the weeks to come! We invite other Agawam students to join in the fun. Beginning this week, Kids Korner will be asking different questions of different age groups. In our section called 'Teens Talk', we invite teenagers to submit their own questions that they would like to have other teens answer. We would like names and either your age or grade, but if you prefer to remain anonymous, that's all right too. Until we have some of your questions to print, we will submit our own for your responses. - Don't forget your poems.*

Last week's question: What kind of TV programs do you like to watch, and do you think there are enough good shows for kids your age?

*I like to watch the cops and robbers. My favorite show is 'Chips'. Todd Beddow, 2nd grade, Danahy*

*I think most all children's television should not have a lot of violence in the programs. The shows I watch are much more funny. But sometimes I do watch some violent shows. I do not think there are enough children's shows. Brett Treganowan, 4th grade, Danahy*

*Mork and Mindy, Different Strokes, Fantasy Island, Happy Days. (2) Yes. Darren Byrne, 3rd grade, Phelps*

*Yes I think there are enough shows for kids. I like to watch the Muppets. Tammy Buoniconti, 2nd grade, Danahy*

*Comedy shows and educational. No I don't think there are enough good shows for kids my age. Julie Gulick, 6th grade, Middle School*

*I like to watch Mork and Mindy on Thursday and I like to watch hockey games too. Bryan Boutwell, 2nd grade, Danahy*

*Threes Company, Happy Days, Laverne and Shirley, Charlie's Angels. Yes I think there are enough good shows for kids. Joann Ryan, 4th grade, Perice*

*I like comedy and scary movies. I don't think there are enough good shows on for kids. Andre Strycharz, 6th grade, Middle School*

*Chips, Eight is Enough, B.J. and the Bear, Love Boat, Happy Days, Three's Company, Alice and sports programs. Yes, there are enough good shows for kids my age, but I think some of them should be on earlier. Vincent Spagnoli, grade 4, James Clark School*

*The kind of television programs I like to watch are comedies, space, monster, and under water shows. But there are two problems. All the good shows for children are on when we are in school or in bed. And all the specials are on too late. Some of the shows I like to watch at night my mother says are not suitable for kids my age. I believe that, I wish they would fix them for children.*

*Scott St.Hill, 4th grade, Danahy*

*I like sports programs, comedy programs, drama programs. I like sport programs because they give me some pointers plus I like cheering for a team. I like comedy programs because they give me a good laugh when I need one. I like drama programs because they make you wait in suspense. My favorite programs are Billy, Happy Days, Mork and Mindy, What's Happening. I think there are not enough good programs for my age groups. Tommy Briggs, 4th grade, Danahy*

Next Weeks Questions:

*"Wee Whisperings" - for the kindergarten kids have you decided what you would like to be when you grow up and why?*

*"Children's Chatter" - for grades 1-2-3-4: If you could meet any famous person in the world, who would you like to meet and why?*

*"Youthful Yak" for grades 5,6, & 7: Is there anything that you would like to learn in school that is not being taught now?*

*"Teens Talk" for grades 8 - 12: Do you feel that the course of study which you currently have in school is satisfactory in preparing you for your future? Do you have any suggestions on how the school system might be improved to prepare students not only for college, but for every day living in general?*

Send your answers to the Agawam Advertiser/News, Dept. R, P.O. Box 233, Agawam, Mass. 01001

## Lioness Club Installs, Re- ceives Charter

### Installation of Agawam Feeding Hills Lioness Club

The Agawam-Feeding Hills Lioness became a reality Saturday night when Governor Eddis Kronick of Lions International District 33Y presented a Charter from Lions International President Anne Cascio at an installation banquet at the Oak Ridge Country Club, Feeding Hills.

District Chairperson Elaine Roberts, who is also a Charter Member of the new Lioness Club, installed the following officers: President Anne Cascio, Vice-president Dolly LaFleur, Secretary Alice Collins, Treasurer Juanita Vining, Directors Florence Cascio and Merle Cavanaugh. Past District Governor Warren H. Roberts installed Elaine Roberts as a Director. Acting as Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Past District Governor Charles DeAngelus of the Hinsdale Lions Club and Extension Chairman for Lioness of 33Y.

A proclamation from the Town of Agawam was presented to the new Lioness Club by Council President Richard Theroux in honor of the chartering. State Representative Edward Connelly saw fit to secure a Resolution from the House of Representatives commending the Lioness program by Speaker of the House McGee. The Resolution was read by Tom Cascio, Sr. in the absence of State Rep. Connelly who had a previous commitment.

Lioness President Cascio presented checks to P.D.G. Charles DeAngelus for the Renal Dialysis Fund of the Berkshire Medical Center; to P.D.G. Thomas Cascio Sr. for the Lions Orthoptic Clinic of Springfield and to District Chairperson Elaine Roberts for an audiometer to be used at Health Fairs by Lions and Lionesses within the District.

The new members of Agawam-Feeding Hills Lioness Club would like to thank everyone who made their Charter Nite a memorable event and dedicate themselves to helping the less fortunate.



Recently installed in the Agawam-Feeding Hills Lioness Club are pictured above. From left: Florence Cascio, Dolly LaFleur, Juanita Vining, Lucille Camyre, Merle Cavanaugh, Ane Cascio, Elaine Roberts, and Alice Collins. photo by Jack Devine

## Springfield YMCA News

The Springfield YMCA is offering to members and non-members a 10-week Jazz Dance class designed especially for the beginner who is interested in promoting flexibility, endurance, and total body conditioning.

The class meets once a week on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 beginning March 20.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 739-6951.

The Springfield YMCA will sponsor a one-hour lecture free to the public entitled "The Pre-Schoolers Need for Fitness, Proper Nutrition, and Relaxation" on Tuesday, March 27 at 10 a.m. at the YMCA.

Anita Krzynowek, R.N., C.P.N.P., and head nurse of the YMCA Cardiac Therapy Program will be the guest speaker. A question-and-answer session will follow her lecture.

The Springfield YMCA in cooperation with the 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking will begin a Stop Smoking Clinic on March 26.

The program will run for five consecutive evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA. More information may be obtained by calling the Y at 739-6951.



## Ostomy Association Meeting

The Ostomy Association of Greater Springfield will meet Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Providence Hospital.

The program will include a discussion and presentation on nutrition by Mrs. Donna Linderme, LPN, chief hyperalimentation assessment nurse and co-director of the Providence Hospital Nutritional Metabolic Support Service and Randall C. McMan, a representative of the Squibb Company.

Mrs. Carol Sepanek, CET, the hospital's certified enterostomal therapist and president of OAGS, will preside at the meeting.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 21, 1979  
Phelps PTO Meeting  
7:30 p.m.

April 4, 1979  
Pre-School Story Hour  
Agawam Library  
10 a.m.

March 25, 1979  
'Skate for Cancer'  
The Rollaway, Agawam  
7-9 p.m.

April 7, 1979  
A.F.S. Macaroni &  
Meatball Supper  
V.F.W., South Street  
5-8 p.m.

March 26, 1979  
Agawam Women's Club  
Capt. Leonard House  
8:00 p.m.

April 8, 1979  
Pancake Breakfast for the  
benefit of the Cancer  
Crusade  
Polish American Club  
Feeding Hills  
8 a.m. - 12 noon

March 30, 1979  
Policeman's  
Country & Western Show  
Agawam High School

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**TRUCKERS LUBER-FINERS FOR SALE:** Cheap. New in factory cartons. Call 786-0364 eves.

**COLLECTORS PLATES,** some first editions to start beginners. X-Mas, Mother's Day and Father's Day. 786-1643.

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**HELP WANTED:** Machinist experienced (general mechanics) capable of maintaining equipment consisting of: compressors, milling machines, welding equipment, punch presses, etc. Contact W.J. Lucki, Spartan Saw Works, Inc., 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam. (413)786-9665.

**HELP WANTED:** Monitor for Special Education Van - Agawam Public Schools - hours 7:00-9:15 a.m. and 2:00-4:15 p.m. car required - apply at the Superintendent's Office, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass.

**WANTED GENERAL HOUSE CLEANING,** 1 day a week, Feeding Hills area. Call after 5 p.m. 786-3665.

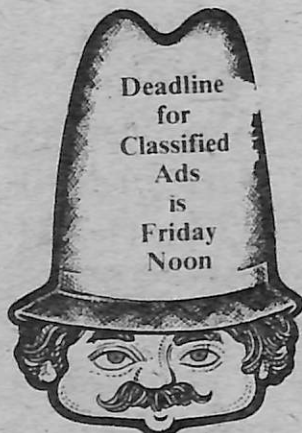
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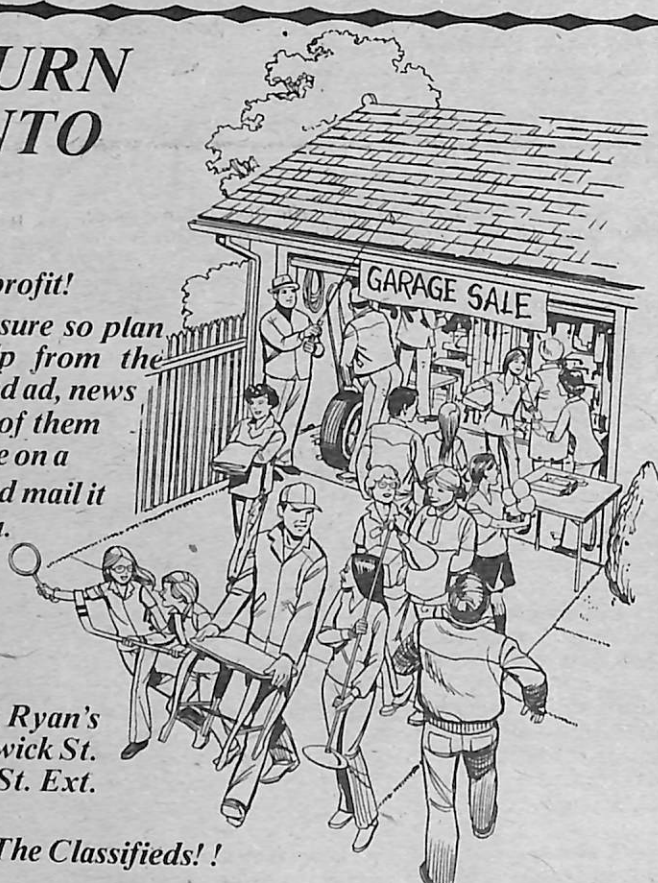
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## Our Feathered Friends

by Mary Os

Yesterday I heard a red-winged blackbird. Because I was away from the house, I was unable to get my glasses and locate it among the trees, but its song is unmistakable. A rich, musical O-ka-LEEE, the blackbird's song is a true harbinger of spring. Reappearing in the area in late February or early March, the red-winged blackbird is always among the first spring arrivals.

The males often arrive before the females and establish their nesting grounds. The distinctive red wing patches, which are bordered with a buff-colored edging, are this bird's calling card. Otherwise, he is a solid black. The slightly-smaller females and the immatures are heavily streaked with dusky brown.

The blackbird feeds, flies, and roosts in huge flocks. But when it is mating time, the males seek solitude and mark off their territory. They intimidate other birds by

flashing their wing patches. This specie nests near marshlands, swamps, wet and dry pastures as well as meadows. The nest is a well-woven cup of marsh grasses or reeds built in a bush.

The male blackbird does little after he mates and sees his wife situated within his territory. If his area has a great abundance of food, he can be expected to mate more than once with different females.

The female lays three to five pale blue eggs, which are spotted and scrawled with dark brown and purple. The female feeds the young herself and watches out for them until they leave the nest. She may well mate again and construct a whole new nest for each additional clutch.

While blackbirds are unpopular with farmers because of their grain-eating habits, they are basically attractive and interesting birds. They enjoy a life span of four to fourteen years.

## Down to Earth

by Janet Cook



How well did you keep your vegetable or flower garden weeded last year? Do you believe, probably too well!

You should never allow weeds to "take over" in the garden, but weeds wisely used are some of the most important companion plants we can have in the arden. Someone said, "A weed is a plant out of place," but I think I can agree with Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered."

The extensive root growth of weeds can penetrate the subsoil, breaking it up and making it easier for the roots of plants to go further in their search for water and nourishment.

A few weeds can be useful in shading the ground to keep seedling vegetables from drying out in the sun's heat.

Deep-rooted weeds, such as pigweed, lamb's quarters, and thistles, bring up minerals from the lower soil by way of their stalks and leaves. When these weeds are turned under, the minerals become available to more shallow-rooted crops.

Weeds seem to accumulate the nutrients in which a particular soil is deficient. Weeds such as sheep sorrel and plantain, which thrive in acid soil, are rich in alkalizing minerals such as calcium and magnesium. Turning these weeds back into the soil can be an asset to food plants.

If you can learn to "read weeds," they can give you a very good indication of the type of soil you have around your home. Weeds that like acid soil are dock, lady's

thumb, and sorrel. Horsetail or mare's tail indicates slightly acid soil, as do hawkweed and knap weed.

Weeds that indicate a crust formation or hardpan are penny cress, wild morning glory, horse nettle, field mustard, camomiles, quack grass, and pineapple weed.

Many weeds are likely to occur in cultivated land, like chickweed, buttercup, dandelion, nettle, field speedwell, common horehound, mallows, pigweed, and carpetweed.

Sandy soils are favored with wild lettuce, yellow toad flax, wild onion, broom bush, flowering aster, and almost all goldenrods.

Where the soil is alkaline, we might find sagebrush and woody aster, and in limestone soil, we can find peppergrass, penny grass, mountain bluet, yellow camomile, and field madder.

If a plot of land can grow healthy weeds, it more than likely will grow a very healthy garden. Let some weeds reach full growth, but cut them down before they go to seed. Let them lie on the soil for a few days to wilt and then plow them under or add them to your compost pile. This is better known as "green manure" to many people.

Also, you might remember that many weeds are really edible herbs. Bone up on your herbs and you could discover that you have an herb garden growing right under your nose... one you didn't even have to plant!

KEEP SMILING! JMC

## Cancer Crusade Lists Upcoming Events

Theodore Twarog, special events chairman for the 1979 Cancer Crusade, lists the following events to take place in Agawam: March 25, "Skate for Cancer" at The Rollaway, 7-9 p.m. all proceeds to go to the Cancer Society. April 8, Pancake Breakfast at the Polish American Club, Southwick St., Feeding Hills, 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Adults \$1.50, children \$1.00. May 13, a Macaroni and meatball dinner at the Polish American Club. All proceeds to go to the American Cancer Society.

Ruth Zucco, Crusade chairman, feels that with Mr. Twarog heading up the special events this year, many different events will take place, and a great profit will be realized for the Cancer Society. Enjoy the upcoming events and help a worthy cause to be realized.

## Powdermill to Launch Balloons

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a quarter of a million balloons!

Countdown to the "Big Launch" at Powder Mill School in Southwick begins at 2:00 p.m. on March 22. That's when 150 fifth-grade students will send helium-filled balloons soaring into the sky as a part of the new, nationwide Writing Pals Contest sponsored by *Weekly Reader*, the classroom newspaper.

Paula Guerra, fifth-grade teacher, said an estimated quarter of a million school children throughout the United States are filling the skies with the Writing Pals balloons during the week of March 19th.

The goal of the *Weekly Reader* Balloon Contest, according to Miss Guerra, is to generate interest in *Weekly Reader's* Writing Pals, a program aimed at building writing skills in youngsters.

Each bright yellow balloon contains a card. Finders are asked to fill in their names and addresses and mail the cards back to the Powder Mill School in Southwick. Then the children will write personal letters to the balloon finders.

A first prize of \$500 will be awarded by *Weekly Reader* to the school that receives the card mailed from the farthest distance. One hundred runner-up prizes will also be awarded.

Keep your eyes on the sky on March 22. A Southwick fifth-grader hopes you'll find that special message and write a reply.

## VOTE NOW!-Only 10 days left!

## Outstanding Athlete Award BALLOT

Boys Basketball Wrestling  
Girls Basketball Boys Swimming

circle one

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You are allowed ONE VOTE per athlete, per sport

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail Ballots To: AGAWAM ADVERTISER/NEWS  
'Outstanding Athlete Award'

P.O. BOX 233

AGAWAM, MA. 01001

## How To Vote For The Outstanding Athlete Award

In order to vote for the 'Outstanding Athlete' our readers should complete the ballot on this page. All citizens of Agawam are eligible to vote for the SENIOR athlete in the four categories - Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling and Boys Swimming (circle the appropriate sport). Fill in the athletes name, your name,

address, and phone number. Mail the form to the Agawam Advertiser/News at P.O. Box 233 Agawam, Ma. 01001. The purpose of the award is twofold: (1) to increase community interest in the high school athletic program, and (2) to recognize the individual talents of our amateur athletes. Tabulation of all ballots will

be handled by the staff of the Agawam Advertiser News. The deadline for the Winter sports category is March 15, 1979.

Individuals eligible for the award are Agawam High School Senior Athletes (graduating in 1979) who participate in sports which the Agawam Athletic Association sponsors teams.

## Agawam Garden Club Lists Programs

The Agawam Garden Club has opened its 1979 season, and regular meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Capt. Leonard house.

Programs for the year will be as follows:

April 10: Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces and Containers by Ron Kujawski  
May 12: Trip to Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Monson  
May 19: Plant Sale  
June 12: Demonstration on fresh-flower arranging by Virginia Fuess

July 7: Trip to Caprilands Herb Farm  
September 11: Flower Show  
October 9: Dried flower arranging by Mrs. Nacewicz  
November 13: Banquet  
November 27: Greens Meeting

Officers for the current year are Janet Cook, president; Mary Fedora, vice-president; Barbara Santaniello, secretary; Debra Pond, publicity secretary; and Judith Clini, treasurer.

Guests are welcome at all the meetings.